

# Hurd aims to replace BBC TV licence fee

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

The Government hopes to introduce a comprehensive broadcasting Bill early in the next Parliament, phasing out the television licence fee and introducing other sweeping changes in the basic structure of British television.

The licence fee will be replaced by a voluntary system of subscription that will allow the reception of BBC programmes only by those who pay for them.

The Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, calls subscription television the hinge to a new future for British broadcasting. "We are on the edge of change and that change will affect the BBC as well as almost everybody else," he said.

The Government is expected to argue that while it was logical to have a compulsory licence fee while the BBC operated a monopoly, it has become less so with the advent of independent broadcasting.

The logic of the licence-fee approach will be unworkable when cable television, satellite broadcasting and other changes open up the television market to intense

competition, the Government believes.

The Bill is also likely to include a guaranteed right of access to the BBC and independent television stations for independent producers, a measure which, the Government hopes, will introduce more competition into a television market.



Mr Hurd: "We are on the edge of change."

vision programme market dominated by the broadcast organizations themselves. The precise content of the Bill will depend on a parliamentary debate to be held before Christmas, and on the findings of a technical study into the feasibility of moving to a subscription system.

However, it is understood that the study is likely to conclude that a subscription system is technologically possible, although it will take some time to introduce.

Pay-television is already in operation in France, the United States and a handful of

other countries, but the Government's plans for the BBC would, if implemented, be likely to create the world's largest and most technically sophisticated subscription television system.

Because such a system could not be introduced for a number of years, the Government is expected to accept the recommendation of the Peacock Committee on broadcasting finance to index future rises in the licence fee.

The BBC has asked for the indexation to be linked to the cost of broadcasting, while the Peacock Committee recommended that the indexation be linked to the general rate of inflation.

In a speech to the Royal Television Society, at the weekend, Mr Hurd made it clear that the Government is philosophically ready to accept a "pay-per-view" scheme as an alternative to the licence fee, and announced that it is to schedule an early debate on the Peacock Committee's recommendations.

He did not believe that it would be enough simply to allocate the new possibilities, whether on television or on radio, between the two wings of the existing structure.

Independent television producers said yesterday they expect to emerge as winners from the Government's review of broadcasting policy, gaining the right to have more of their programmes broadcast by the BBC and ITV companies.

## Royal Family remembers war dead



The Princess of Wales, Princess Anne and the Duchess of York view the ceremony yesterday (Photographs: Chris Harris)

## Chinook pilot gives clue to cause of crash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The captain of the crashed Chinook helicopter has given accident investigators a detailed description of the last moments of his flight to disaster.

As a result they now believe they know to within a few centimetres the exact component which fractured and caused Britain's worst helicopter disaster.

Captain Puat Vaid, aged 45, who is regarded by other helicopter pilots as one of the finest in the world, told officials from the Accident Investigation Branch what happened as he was descending through 500 feet towards the Shetland Islands airport of Sumburgh.

All his instruments were working normally, he told them, as he made his final approach. There was no indication that there was anything wrong as he gave his final "two minutes to touchdown" message and feathered back the rotors to slow the helicopter's forward speed.

But suddenly there was a loud bang and the Boeing 234 dropped like a stone towards the sea, breaking up as it hit the water and sinking immediately.

As the helicopter dropped down the G-forces forced his hands upwards and away from the control column so he was unable to reach the radio button to call for assistance or to give any warning that he was in trouble.

But in those few brief seconds before the helicopter

hit the water he was able to tell his co-pilot through the microphone connected to his headset that there was a major problem with the rear rotor.

From endless practice in a simulator he knew that the blades of the front and rear rotors had become unsynchronized and had hit each other breaking one off and making the helicopter behave as if it had hit a brick wall.

From his description investigators realised that the part they most needed lay in the rear portion of the helicopter 300 feet beneath the

Hunt goes on Photographs 2

surface of the North Sea. Now they believe they have got it on board Deepwater One and have already begun to strip it down.

It is a "combiner" - a piece of machinery that acts rather like the differential in the rear axle of a motor car.

The helicopter's two engines produce power which turns a shaft spinning horizontally. This is then converted into energy to drive another shaft called a synchronizing shaft which takes the power to the forward rotor and makes it spin at a speed designed to miss the blades of the rear rotor.

The rear rotor is driven by another shaft coming out of the combiner but spinning vertically before another set

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## Rooftop marksmen guard the Cenotaph

By David Sapsted

Controversy and a cordon of unprecedented security surrounded yesterday's remembrance ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. In the end, however, it was "the glorious dead" who remained uppermost in the thoughts of the thousands who turned out to pay their respects.

As armed police stood by on rooftops and as every visitor to the ceremony was screened for weapons at airport-style security gates, members of the Royal Family, political leaders and old soldiers laid floral tributes to the fallen heroes.

The security measures meant that hundreds of people were unable to get near the memorial, but the intrinsic, moving solemnity of the occasion was undiminished.

To a man, woman and child, they were red poppies. The anti-nuclear campaigners' white version appeared three hours later in a virtually unnoticed ceremony performed by 200 members of the Peace Field Union.

An hour earlier, 500 National Front members laid their own wreath as more than



The Queen lays a floral tribute at the Cenotaph

1,000 officers policed a rival, anti-fascist march in a successful effort to keep the two sides apart.

It was the threat of terrorist reprisals for the bombing of Libya and the expulsion of Libyan diplomats, allied to fears of clashes between left and right wing groups that brought hundreds of police on to the streets but, at the end of the ceremony, it was the community singing of "Rule Britannia" that was the highlight.

Continued on page 20, col 3

## Progress 'slow' on teaching pay deal

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Teaching unions and their local authority employers appeared last night to be making slow, but steady progress in their efforts to resolve the long-running pay dispute and reach an agreement on a contract.

More than 24 hours after the Acas-sponsored negotiations began in Nottingham, the crucial issue of pay had still not been brought up for discussion. The indications were that exchanges on salary structure would not begin in earnest until today.

Dominating the agenda yesterday was the issue of teachers' duties and conditions of service. After more than 10 hours in which both sides had met separately and then together to discuss the controversial topics of non-contract time, covering for absent colleagues and the maximum class size of pupils, Mr John Pearman, the leader of the Labour-led local education authorities, emerged saying that he felt both sides were "quite close to an agreement".

However, the impression given by the teaching unions was that Mr Pearman's optimism was premature.

The Government's pay offer is worth 16.4 per cent over two years, with differentials which would reward among others, head teachers, their deputies, and teachers of shortage subjects.

Opposed to this hierarchical structuring of pay are the two largest teaching unions, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, and many of the local authority employers.

It appears that some sort of compromise between these rival systems of pay distribution will be necessary.

Some Scottish parents have reacted angrily to a proposal by the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) to reject the Government's pay offer.

Mr David Carmichael, of the pressure group Parents Against Targeted Schools, said yesterday that if there was disruption in schools they would ask the Government to impose a settlement on the teachers.

## Inside



Overstretched, attacked from all sides, the police are at the sharp end of a rapidly changing society. A five-part series begins today with a front-line report from one of London's toughest beats - while tomorrow Home Secretary Douglas Hurd defines the limits of police power

## Portfolio Gold

● The £16,000 weekly prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount because there was no winner the previous week, was won on Saturday by Mr Alfred McNamee of Balesstone, Glasgow.  
● The £4,000 daily prize was shared by four readers. Details page 3  
● There is a further £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list page 20; rules and how to play, information service, page 20.

## TIMES BUSINESS

### CBI backing

CBI leaders launched a pre-election business manifesto and broke with tradition by announcing for the first time their support for a Conservative victory at the next election. Page 21

## TIMES SPORT

### McEnroe wins

John McEnroe beats Miloslav Mečíř 6-3, 1-6, 7-6, 5-7, 6-2 in the final of the European Community Championship in Antwerp. Page 36

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## Chancellor rules out poll 'dash'

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday ruled out a snap general election aimed at capitalizing on the Government's public spending bonanza, and held out the hope of two more budgets before the country goes to the polls in 1988.

"I am absolutely certain that there is no quick dash to the country in mind," he said. The Chancellor insisted last week's decision to increase public expenditure by an extra £4.75 billion next year was made on the basis that the Government would serve its full five year term.

There was "no imperative at all for the election to be held next year and he would be "quite content to go the whole way until 1988."

He confirmed his intention to reduce income tax to 25p in the pound, although he could not say when it would happen. But he warned that pressure on sterling, caused in part by City fears of a Labour government, might require interest rates to rise.

While the Prime Minister is unlikely to refer to the growing election fever when he makes his annual speech at the Guildhall tonight, he shares Mr Lawson's antipathy to an early poll.

Mr Lawson's attempts to dampen down expectations of an early poll came as a third successive opinion poll put the Conservatives in the lead. The MORI survey in yesterday's Sunday Times put the Tories on 40 per cent, Labour on 39 per cent and the SDP/Liberal Alliance on 18 per cent.

The Chancellor, in his first full interview since announcing his surprise spending package last Thursday, rejected suggestions that the Government had performed a U-turn

## Pollution alert in North Sea

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Ships which monitor North Sea pollution and radioactivity levels for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have been alerted to track a flood of mercury due to be discharged from the Rhine later this week.

Their measurements of how this lethal plume is dispersing will be relayed to experts on the protection of coastal and offshore North Sea fisheries.

Aquatic life in the Rhine was destroyed as an estimated



Safety flaws 7

30 tons of mercury and other chemicals used in the manufacture of pesticides drifted down the river from Basel in Switzerland, through Germany, and to the Netherlands at the weekend.

The mercury, the key ingredient of a powerful fungicide, was washed into the river when firemen fought a blaze at the Sandoz chemical plant, near Basel, more than a week ago.

It undid efforts of 10 years to clean up the Rhine, which had been criticized as "becoming Europe's sewer" because of the effluent from rapid industrialization.

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## Threat by Patten on rent debt

By Our Political Correspondent

Local authority rent arrears in England have reached a new record well above £200 million, with some councils failing to collect money from up to a quarter of their council tenants.

The scale of the rent debt has appalled Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, and today he will tell local authority chiefs that unless they take effective action to cut arrears substantially, the Government will be forced to legislate.

Mr Patten first asked councils to improve their rent collecting a year ago, but the latest Department of Environment figures show their response has been dismal. A majority of local authorities

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## 'Shultz to resign' over Iran talks

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The revelations of US contacts with Iran, involving the supply of military spare parts in an attempt to free the US hostages in Lebanon, has caused a crisis within the Reagan Administration, and there was talk yesterday that Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, was contemplating resigning.

Mr Shultz returned at the weekend from Vienna, complaining on the plane to the press that he had been "muzzled" by the White House. And, in an indirect criticism, he reiterated that not negotiating for hostages was the right policy.

He has given no public hint of his reaction to the revelations. Reports suggest that he may have known something was going on and chosen not to investigate because of his firm opposition to any deal

ings with Iran. Senator Richard Lugar, former Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said yesterday that he did not think Mr Shultz would resign, and that such talk was mere press speculation.

A State Department spokesman also described the story as "pure speculation". Sources close to Mr Shultz, however, said that if there was

Moment of truth 7

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anything that would prompt him to resign, it was this. "There is no issue he cares about more than counter-terrorism, and the disclosures would seem to make a mockery of everything Shultz stands for," one source told the New York Times.

Continued on page 20, col 8

## Race is on to sign Ian Botham

Worcestershire and Warwickshire are making the early running in the chase to sign Ian Botham, who said yesterday from Australia, where he is touring with England, that he will leave Somerset as a result of the club's members backing the dismissal of Viv Richards and Joel Garner.

Botham has a long-term contract with Worcestershire's chairman, Duncan Fearnley, who endorses his cricket equipment, while David Brown, Warwickshire's cricket manager, has confirmed their interest.

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David Miller, page 34

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Team to combat immigrants plot

Government fears of a conspiracy to enable thousands of illegal immigrants from Nigeria and Ghana to enter Britain has led to the establishment of a special investigation team.

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that a secret meeting of officials took place in September, when the scale of the infiltration was discussed.

As a result, immigration and welfare department investigators are looking into a large number of cases involving people from both countries who "appear to be in breach of immigration laws and who may be involved in benefit frauds". One estimate claims that the welfare frauds could be costing more than £5 million a year.

Investigators suspect that some illegal immigrants gain entry by applying for the birth certificate of a dead person.

## £50,000 giveaway

A landscape painting which a Dorset couple were ready to give away with their home has turned out to be worth at least £50,000.

The 12ft by 6ft picture by Australian artist Nicholas Chevalier is believed to have hung in Conygar House, Broadmayne, since it was built 90 years ago.

Mr Anthony Tewson, a senior engineer with Wessex Water Authority, was ready to leave it behind when he sold his house, but an auctioneer called in to value furniture spotted the picture.

## League dropped

A schools' football league of 12 teams, run for 82 years in Swindon, Wiltshire, is to be dropped because it is "too competitive".

Mr Geoff Walters, secretary of Swindon Schools' Football Association, said yesterday that the decision came after a survey of 12 secondary schools. "Teachers want less emphasis on competition, and more on getting all children involved", he said.

"They are worried about the emphasis placed on competition, and want to promote enjoyment and friendliness."

## Heart man awake

Britain's first patient to receive an artificial heart transplant is now conscious and breathing on his own, five days after a second operation to fit a human organ.

The man aged 40, who has not been named, is in intensive care at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire.

Mr John Edwards, spokesman for the heart transplant programme at the hospital, said yesterday: "Our patient is now fully conscious and breathing on his own with the aid of a ventilator. His new heart is functioning satisfactorily."



## Minibus fire hero

A minibus driver was hailed as a hero yesterday for repeatedly returning to his blazing vehicle to rescue wheelchair-bound passengers.

Four people died trapped in their burning car after it collided with the minibus from a Cheshire home at Brixham, Devon.

Mr Keith Cook, left, the minibus driver, was the only one of 13 people on board unharmed after the accident on Saturday on the Brixham to Paignton road.

A passenger rescued from the car was also taken to hospital where his condition was "serious".

## Coroners seek pay parity with junior judges

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The 157 coroners in England and Wales are seeking a substantial increase in their pay to put them on a level with junior judges.

There is growing concern among coroners, who are paid by local authorities, that their salaries are out of step with the increasing pressures and demands of the job.

They want to be accorded recognition of their role as judicial officers, through pay parity with registrars and stipendiary magistrates, as recommended by the Brodick committee on coroners in 1971.

At present coroners are paid on a level determined by the salaries of local authority chief officers.

A full-time coroner receives four-fifths of a chief officer's salary, amounting to a minimum of £22,263 and going up to £24,774 for a coroner with more than six years' experience.

County court registrars and stipendiary magistrates are on just over £31,000 a year.

The proposals have been put forward in the current round of pay talks between the Coroners' Society and the local authority associations.

The local authorities, which have just offered coroners a 10 per cent pay rise, are con-

cerned about their lack of control if coroners' salaries were linked to those of junior judges, which are determined by central government.

The discontent over pay coincides with moves within the Government to reform the coroners' court system.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, said recently the government wanted to legislate on coroners' courts and the item is likely to be high on the agenda if the government is elected for a third term.

Two independent reports on coroners, from Justice, the legal rights group, and from the British Medical Association, have also highlighted

the poor pay levels and the need for reform.

Mr John Hibbert, a coroner in Cheshire and honorary secretary for the Coroners' Society, said: "We are judicial officers so why should we not be paid on the level with the lowest judicial officers?"

The demands and responsibilities of the coroner's job had greatly increased in recent years, he said. They were statutorily bound to be on duty 24 hours a day throughout the year, which meant, for example, that if someone wanted to transplant an organ of an accident victim at 2am, the

coroner had to give permission.

There were other demands if the death of a Jewish person was referred to a coroner, he would have to ensure burial within 24 hours, whatever the day of the week, and there were similar requirements with Muslims which could be a significant problem in some parts of the country.

There had also been representations from the Helen Smith Inquest, the British nurse who died in Saudi Arabia, which now meant that inquests had to be held on bodies brought back to a coroner's jurisdiction where the death had been sudden or unnatural.

## 'Loyalists' in car bombs threat to the South

By Richard Ford

Security on both sides of the Irish border will be tightened this week after "loyalist" terrorists planted four incendiary devices in Dublin, at the weekend, and gave a warning of a car bomb campaign in the Republic of Ireland from next weekend.

Loyalists are preparing a series of protests to mark the first anniversary of the Anglo-Irish agreement - on November 15 - and are said to be plotting the launch of a "citizens' army" of several thousand.

Tonight the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, will attend a "dedication service" at the Ulster Hall in Belfast during which his mobilization plans are expected to be unveiled.

The Ulster Freedom Fighters threatened to bring "maximum carnage" in the Irish Republic unless its government ceased implementing the Anglo-Irish agreement from next Saturday.

The outlawed loyalist organization, suspected as being a flag of convenience for the Ulster Defence Association, said that all Irish citizens in the North and South would be legitimate targets.

The annual conference of the Official Unionist Party, at the Europa hotel, Belfast, at the weekend, was warned that it was in danger of being sucked into violence under the guise of united loyalist opposition to the agreement.

Mr Robert McCartney, QC, one of the leading integra-

tionists, gave the warning to the conference, which was held almost completely in private, to prevent a serious and acrimonious division within the party being shown to the public.

His attempt to commit the organization to a policy of total integration within the UK failed.

So concerned was the party at the possibility of its divisions being overheard, that it banned the press from the floor where the conference was being held.

The parliamentary party persuaded delegates to support a position in which they made no decision on either integration or devolution but instead committed themselves to smashing the Anglo-Irish agreement. Their narrow victory papers over the cracks and avoids an issue that threatens to split the party and undermine the leadership of Mr James Molyneux.

The Irish Republic's government yesterday welcomed a number of measures announced by Mr Tom King which aim to increase safeguards under Northern Ireland's anti-terrorist legislation.

The proposals by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland are intended to minimize the blow the Irish suffered last week when the Prime Minister rejected their demands for an increase from one to three judges sitting in the non-jury Diplock courts.



Mr Eric Marrans, who clung to a liferaft, in hospital yesterday

## Chinook disaster

## Gales hinder hunt for clues

By Howard Foster

Gales and heavy seas were last night hampering the search for vital clues to the Shetland helicopter disaster.

Two offshore vessels, a semi-submersible rig, the Stadrive, and an offshore diving support vessel, Deepwater One, started a new square search yesterday, aided by a remote-control mini submarine and divers working at depths of 300 ft.

The search is centred on the rear gearbox, rotor and back part of the fuselage of the Boeing Chinook. But the difficulty in locating these, even with sophisticated remote-controlled diving equipment, points increasingly to the fact, confirmed by eyewitnesses, that the rear rotor blade parted from the helicopter before it hit the sea.

The investigators are also keen to examine the helicopter's voice recorder box because this also records the rpm of the rotors just before the accident.

Fishermen and land-based islanders saw the accident and have been interviewed by the Accident Investigation Board (AIB).

Thirty autopsies have been carried out so far. It is expected that the bodies will be moved to Aberdeen where the Procurator-fiscal is expected to order a final accident inquiry in the next few days.

Shetlanders marked the disaster with prayers at Remembrance Day services on the island. The other four Chinooks operating between the North Sea oil and gas fields and the Scottish mainland remained grounded.

The AIB is under considerable pressure to present an interim report to Mr Michael Spicer, the Minister for Aviation.

Mr David King, the inspector leading the six-man AIB inquiry, confirmed yesterday that the Chinook had been involved in two incidents

during its six-year life. The first, in February 1983, was a transmission failure which led to a small fire. In May 1984 there had been a hydraulic control failure.

Shortly before the helicopter left Sumburgh Airport to pick up the men from the Brent oilfield, it had been delayed with a gearbox oil leak. A repair was made.

Mr King said: "We are still collecting data. We do have a lot of evidence but it is difficult to assess. We have damaged components but we have to assess that damage

and decide whether it stems from primary or secondary causes.

"Eyewitnesses have been interviewed but it has to be established whether what they saw was a primary or secondary cause."

Both survivors of the crash, Mr Eric Marrans, a trainee technician, and Captain Pusit Vaid, the pilot, have been extensively interviewed by the AIB.

Thirteen of the 45 passengers from the British International Helicopters Chinook aircraft are still missing.

## 'I heard a loud bang then I hit the water'

One of the two survivors of the worst helicopter crash in civil aviation history spoke yesterday of a "loud bang" which signalled the Chinook's descent into the sea two miles off the Shetland Islands.

Mr Eric Marrans, aged 20, a trainee technician with Shell who was returning with 42 colleagues from the Brent oilfield, said he was sleeping when the noise happened and he lost consciousness some afterwards.

Mr Pusit Vaid, captain of the helicopter, is reported to be suffering from severe depression and feels responsible for the accident, according to his employers, British International Helicopters.

Mr Marrans said: "A very loud bang woke me up from my sleep. The next thing I knew I opened my eyes and there was shattered glass flying all over the cabin."

"The next thing I was hitting the water. Just as a wave splashed on my face I woke up. I looked around and saw a liferaft and I tried to climb inside it but I couldn't manage so I just hooked my arm over it and clung to it. I

tried to inflate my liferaft but I couldn't manage it so I zipped up my survival suit."

"At some time I saw someone else being rescued from the water. I just clung to the rope and I knew there was a chance I was going to be rescued but I was petrified. I was really scared," he said from his hospital bed, which is surrounded by flowers and "Get well" cards, many from islanders.

"I never felt any sensation and I couldn't feel any pain at all. At that time I didn't think I had been spotted. I tried to wave but in the end I just clung on and hoped. I must have lapsed into unconsciousness because the next thing I knew I was in the rescue helicopter."

Mr Marrans, who has broken arms and several stitches in cuts on his face, said that he was lucky to be alive and to have been thrown clear of the helicopter.

He became very emotional when asked about his colleagues who had died and added that he was still unsure whether he would ever want to fly in a helicopter again.

## Fears that rate reform will hit elderly hard

By a Staff Reporter

Pensioners will be penalized under government plans to reform the rating system by introducing a community charge to pay for local services, according to Age Concern.

In the organization's response to the Green Paper on rating reform, Mr David Hobman, director of Age Concern England, says the proposals amount to "sucking the poor to pay the rich". Age Concern believes the poorest pensioners would be even worse off.

A third of single pensioners could lose up to £5 a week under the community charge, according to the Age Concern report, and 1.1 million retired women would be liable to pay the charge.

Social security benefit changes would mean 2.73 million pensioner households receiving lower housing benefit in 1988 and 390,000 households losing all entitlement. Age Concern is also worried

by proposals to place a legal obligation on the head of a household to supply information for the community charge register, with failure to do so a criminal offence. The report says confused elderly people may face criminal charges and other elderly tenants and home owners could be put at risk of violence from people living with them who wish to evade the new tax.

Mr Hobman said Age Concern recognized the present rating system penalized single pensioners but added: "We are disappointed the Government wishes to replace it with something that will hit them even harder."

The Green Paper admitted that people in properties with low rateable value would take a bigger share of financing local services. Age Concern says elderly people are more likely than other groups to live in such property, so the community charge would hit them hardest.

## Record sales claimed by holiday firms

Britain's tour companies are reporting record bookings for next summer. Reservations are well ahead of last year, according to the holiday companies, attending the annual convention of the Association of British Travel Agents in Brighton.

Heavy discounting of holiday prices, which produced a 25 per cent increase in the market last summer, is less likely. Bookings at Pickfords Travel are more than twice the level of a year ago, the company said. Thomson Holidays, the market leader, is reporting sales a third higher.

Overall, the operators expect to sell 10 per cent more holidays next summer, and a sizeable part of that will be to people taking more than one foreign holiday. Prices of five-star holidays have risen by about 15 per cent in this year's tour brochures.

The most popular countries are still Spain and Greece.

Holiday boom, page 21

## Balloting attacked as helping activists

By Tim Jones

Government industrial relations laws designed to return union power to the members had instead given activists a disproportionate influence in the running of polls, Mr Alistair Graham, director of The Industrial Society, said yesterday.

As past general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, Mr Graham speaks from first hand experience; his former union is organizing a re-run of the ballot for his successor after accusations of irregularities in the branch polls which resulted in the election of Mr John Mervin, a Militant Tendency supporter.

Mr Graham said yesterday: "Balloting is now too important to be left to the activists alone who can sometimes be highly motivated towards one particular candidate, or in favour of one particular viewpoint."

In a series of speeches this month, Mr Graham will call on union members to become more involved in the conduct of polls and campaigning to get both employers and trade unions to adopt a new balloting code.

He said: "Although the present Government has passed a great deal of law, it has lamentably failed to encourage good practice."

Guidelines prepared by the society explain different types of ballot. Work place ballots should be used, they say, only when organizers can guarantee that everyone will be able to vote and not lose pay in the process.

Postal votes should be used by people unable to vote in person and votes cast in branches and at the work place should ideally be counted at one central point.

A check list for voters urges them to make particular efforts to ensure secure voting arrangements and says the returning officer or scrutineers counting the votes should be independent.

Commenting on the check-list for voters, Mr Graham said: "This is a list to stop union members from being conned. Union elections can often go wrong, not because of national rules or organization but as a result of how they are conducted at local level. The check list will help union members to be on their guard."

## £58m offer given new deadline

News International has decided to extend the deadline for acceptance of its £58 million compensation offer to 5,500 former employees because of the numbers who have already applied.

The deadline was to have been today but because more than 1,300 have responded to the letter sent by the chairman, Mr Rupert Murdoch, 11 days ago, no cut-off point has been fixed for the new extension.

More than 800 of the 1,300 people have made written applications for payment. Another 500 have indicated that they wish to take the payment once details of their applications have been cleared up.

The 1,300 represent nearly 25 per cent of the former total workforce employed by the company at Gray's Inn Road and Bouverie Street before News International moved to its new high technology plant at Wapping, east London, in January.

The dispute with News International began after the former employees, mainly members of the print unions Sogat '82 and the National Graphical Association, went on strike and were dismissed by the company. Mr Murdoch has emphasized that there will be no further negotiations.

The offer is based on four weeks' pay for each year of service.

Members of Sogat '82 have been given a warning that they will lose their union cards if they apply to the company. The NGA is believed to be considering similar action.

## 21 rescued off Galway

Helicopters of the Irish Air Corps and the RAF joined in an operation yesterday to rescue the crew of a Dutch factory ship which ran aground on rocks near the Aran Islands, off the West Coast of Ireland, in gale-force winds.

The Aran lifboat took off 21 of the *Cornelius Frolyk's* crew. Six who remained on board were able to reboard the vessel on the next high tide and make for the shelter of the County Clare coast at the southern end of Galway bay.

**Notes:** The three largest islands in the Aran Islands are Inishmore, Inishbeg and Inishmaan. The total population of the islands is 1,300. The factory ship was built in 1960 and was carrying 21 crew members and 100 tons of cargo. It ran aground on the rocks of Inishmore on Sunday night. The ship was damaged and the crew was stranded. The Irish Air Corps and the RAF launched a rescue operation. The Aran lifboat rescued 21 crew members. The ship was later abandoned.

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## THE ARTS

## Shaping language

Cockney is derived from "cokeney", the Middle English for a misshapen egg. From the 17th century it was used by country folk to describe pumpered runts living in towns. In charring cockney's course from the common language of all Londoners to its relegation, via Johnson's dictionary and the public schools, to the speech of the lower orders, *The Murrer Tongue* (BBC2) was itself a bit misshapen.

Uncertain as to whether he was analyzing accents or slang, Robert MacNeil wandered colourfully off the cliff in trying to link the "diabolical liberty" of costermongers with the sardonic self-confidence of Barry Humphries in the Australian outback. His most telling example of the way accents changed was in comparing the Notions exam at Winchester 20 years on. While failing to pick up on the many Anglo-Saxon derivations, he did demonstrate how in pronouncing some of their private jargon Wykehamists today reflect the smartness of being down-market. One thing at least has not changed. Even without their straw hats, they would still pass muster as vegetable sellers.

## TELEVISION

*The People's War* (Channel 4) began its seven-part series with a look at the way cockneys coped in the days before the blitz. Using the archive of Mass Observation (a barely explained and as a result rather sinister organization of professional eavesdroppers and diary-keepers), Taylor Downing's film argued that, far from displaying determination under fire, our civilisation population were thoroughly demoralized.

The programme did not however deliver the revelations it promised. Though keen to explore the problems behind the official, happy facade of evacuated children, what it produced as evidence — like bed-wetting — seemed rather trifling compared with the invasion of Poland and France. Much more successful and interesting was the second half's dispassionate look at how civil street was affected by measures like the blackout. By January 1940, one person in five had suffered an accident in the dark.

In a gimmicky exercise milked for its comic rather than its culinary potential, *Food and Drink Special* (BBC2) took a Sheffield council driver, John Wilcock, to the Dorchester. Under Antonia Mosimann's direction and Chris Kelly's bland narration, Wilcock unconsciously cooked a meal for his wife and daughter. While waiting for it they had so stuffed themselves from the tea trolley that, when Wilcock presented them with symphonies de fruits de mer, they looked as if they had been given a stomach-turning mixture of raw goat and the bill (the latter amounting to what Wilcock earns in a week).

Nicholas Shakespeare

## A rediscovery of power out of obscurity

## GALLERIES

David Smith  
Whitechapel

Julian Opie  
Lisson

The Treasures of Fyvie  
Agnew's

Turner Prize  
Tate

On November 25 Bill Woodrow will, it is hoped, receive this year's Turner Prize and young British sculptors will be given some of the acclaim long overdue to them in their own country. It is therefore appropriate that London at the moment has a number of spectacular sculpture exhibitions. Opening within 10 days of the Hayward's Rodin exhibition is the Whitechapel's David Smith show (until January 4). The American's influence on British work is far more extensive than is normally credited; an appreciation of him, which the Whitechapel makes so easy, leads straight to Britain through Anthony Caro.

Whilst the exhibition's aim is to show Europeans the wealth of Smith's early work, the tragedy of his death in 1965 is underlined by the last two years' output. Coming from a remote part of Indiana, his first contact with art was through reproduction, in particular from the French magazine *Cahiers d'art*. He could not read French, but Picasso's and Gonzalez's use of welded iron struck a note with his own previous experiences working in a car factory. He wanted to be a painter, most of his closest friends were painters and he considered himself a painter throughout his life. His drawings however

rarely come to life and appear as poor pastiches which even his very earliest sculptures never do. *Saw Head* and *Agricola Head* of 1933 owe an obvious debt to Picasso, like much throughout the Thirties and Forties, from the majesty of *Structure of Archet* (1939) to the alarming wit of *Aggressive Character* (1947), but one can also see a new spirit emerging.

The exhibition has travelled to Frankfurt and Dusseldorf, where Smith was hailed as an "impressive rediscovery". He is even more relevant to the British. The *Voltri* series, which assimilates many cultural as well as sculptural influences, prepares one for the dignity of the *Cubi* series, but not for the interplay between the two- and three-dimensional that has intrigued so many sculptors since. Though Smith painted many of his earlier surfaces, they cannot rival the polished and scratched stainless steel of the last works. *Untitled* (Candida) of 1965 consists of eight small sheets of steel welded like a fan into a Greek cross with a hole in the middle. Like most of his work, designed for outdoors, it reacts with nature. Caught by the sun or spotlight, a dazzling pattern is revealed.

Julian Opie has always played tricks with the surface of his sculpture. In the past he has drawn vivid and basic pictures on welded steel. His present exhibition (until December 20) is far removed from that. He is still painting surfaces, but with spray paint intended to highlight the shapes and proportions and not break them up. Though linked with sculptors like Woodrow and Cragg, he is nearly two generations of sculptors removed from Caro, so perhaps no longer feels the need to rebel against the purities of early Caro and late Smith. He must be congratulated on breaking from the mould expected of him, but these architectural forms, however useful they may be as explorations of his ability, lack conviction as independent works.

A very different exhibition, *The Treasures of Fyvie*, at Agnew's until December 12, highlights our deficiencies in supporting living artists by revealing just how effectively our heritage has been pro-



The arrogance of the grand tourist displayed in full splendour in Batoni's *Colonel William Gordon*, among *The Treasures of Fyvie* at Agnew's

moted in the last few years. *The Treasures of Fyvie* exhibition in Washington has raised to celebrity status Fyvie's portrait of Colonel Gordon by Batoni, which dominates the present show. The arrogance of the grand tourist is displayed in full splendour. Though the ruins in the background are those of the often-used Colosseum and not a triumphal arch, there is no doubt, as the statue of Roma proffers a victor's wreath and an orb of command, that the Scottish colonel is demanding comparison with the greatest of Roman generals.

Agnew's exhibition, sponsored by the Scottish Tourist Board and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, and held in aid of the National Trust of Scotland, illustrates a typical story of British collecting. When the Gordons' era of casual but natural patronage ended, Fyvie was bought by a descendant of a previous owner, Sir Alexander Forbes-Leith, as he became after amassing a fortune in

America, built a fine collection of portraits under the guidance of Agnew's. There are 11 Raeburns, though the most glamorous is on loan to the Tate and has been used on a catalogue cover of *Painting in Scotland*. A striking Lawrence of the Countess of Oxford with her equally worrying dog, and a William Beechey also manage to hold their own under the distasteful nose of Colonel Gordon at the end of the room.

The Tate have given a slightly larger space than last year to the Turner Prize short-list (until December 7), but sadly it makes little difference. The display looks as though the organizers are actually trying to put the public off contemporary art, the absolute opposite of their professed aim. Even a Woodrow masterpiece, *A Self-portrait in a Nuclear Age*, a concise vision of disorientated and threatened man, struggles for sympathy.

Alistair Hicks

Horst Neumann (left) has risen to conduct an orchestra of his own, but he still trains the Philharmonia Chorus, who repeat their Verdi Requiem under Giulini at the Festival Hall tonight: interview by Richard Morrison

## Masterly touch in a great tradition

The recruiting process was bizarre but ultimately effective. About three years ago the Philharmonia Chorus, striving to maintain the standards achieved by its first chorus-master, the remarkable Wilhelm Fittz, hit on an unusual way of finding the right musician to inherit his mantle. The chorus members would listen to recordings of choirs from all over the world until they found one whose sound came nearest to their ideal. Logically, the person who trained that choir would be the right appointment.

All went well, up to a point. The members were most impressed by the Leipzig Radio Choir: 80 professionals featured on numerous Karajan, Böhm and Carlos Kleiber recordings. But then came the task of locating the man accredited on the record sleeves with the choir's training: one Horst Neumann. The Philharmonia Chorus wrote to the GDR embassy. The embassy contacted the foreign ministry in East Berlin. The foreign ministry passed the letter to the East German state concert agency. And there, for some strange reason, it languished.

Neumann, by this time promoted to chief conductor of the Leipzig Radio Orchestra, knew the letter from the Philharmonia Chorus existed, but not what it said. He was intrigued, and contacted a West Berlin agency for a London telephone number. "Normally," he admits, "I would not be interested in conducting choirs again, and I was most careful because I knew the Philharmonia Chorus was not professional. But I also knew the story of Kleiber and Fittz, and how important a part this chorus played in your musical life."

A trial rehearsal was fixed. "After five minutes it was clear, for them and for me," says Neumann. "From the beginning the human understanding was very well. Of course," he continues, choosing his words carefully, "the level of artistic was not so as I was used to. But I am very respectful for one thing: that is their enthusiasm. They are rehearsing after a long day's job, with full hundred per cent participation." As for that elusive choral sound, Neumann (whose own prime mentor was Karl Böhm) believes that what the Philharmonia is really striving after is a

quintessentially Germanic approach, with full expressive shading and "womanly" soprano. "This is different from the English tradition, which is based on the sound of your college chapel choirs with their very young voices."

Since Neumann was appointed a year ago, rehearsals with him have been concentrated into intense bursts. Last week there were four rehearsals leading up to the Verdi Requiem performances conducted by Giulini in the Festival Hall on Sunday and tonight. I asked Neumann whether it was difficult for a highly experienced conductor to prepare a chorus for someone else's interpretation. "When I take such a job I know what I must do. The only important thing is that the performance touches the audience's emotions. Who does what is not important. Of course I would like to conduct these works myself, but I can do that in Leipzig and other cities."

Does he ever find himself at variance with a conductor's approach? I mentioned Giulini's extraordinary performance of Bach's B minor Mass last season. "You must understand, what Giulini is doing now is a Credo of his life. From that viewpoint I accepted and understood that performance, even though I may have found it too introverted, too undramatic."

Neumann, 52 this year, is a canny observer of the western musical scene: one senses that a similarly astute stance towards his own country's culture has in the past not entirely enhanced his career prospects. "A lot of years it was not so easy for me" is his terse comment. His 29-year-old son by his first marriage served an 18-month prison sentence for refusing military service, and now lives in West Germany.



John Percival

## DANCE

Preljocaj  
Institut Français

Antonin Preljocaj, the last visitor to this year's Dance Umbrella, is a Frenchman of Albanian family who formed his own company only two years ago. Since then, two of the three works he showed at the Théâtre Artaud of the Institut Français have won prizes.

He turns out to be another exponent of the gestural school, which has been the flavour of the month. In each work he and his small troupe slice the air sharply with their hands, or move their heads briskly from centre to side. They also lie down and get up again, roll back on to their

shoulders, and march with military stride from one part of the stage to another. He has found a new formula for partnering whereby the man just stands still and the woman somehow gets herself off the ground by catching hold of him.

This is done to unexpected combinations of music: in *Blue Fears* to extracts from Beethoven overtures, with an electronic prelude; in *Black Market* to pop music and Verdi; in *White Tears* to Bach, some recorded speech and Furtell. He also provides programme notes of which may be some kind of surreal joke, since they relate in no way to what one actually sees on stage. Full marks for effort, but not for dance interest. The outcome is unusual, carefully polished and enormously boring.

John Percival

## The composure of total authority

## CONCERTS

Philharmonia/  
Giulini  
Festival Hall

Carlo Maria Giulini's performances of the Verdi Requiem have tolled commanding through the years, and Sunday night's did not disappoint. Right from the start, with the surge pronounced vibrato suggesting a soft-focus view of the chorus, his control of tone was exact. And equally formidable were the resources of sheer volume and attack he drew from the Philharmonia.

At the opening of the *Dies irae* it seemed quite possible that the four horsemen of the apocalypse would come riding over the pipework of the Festival Hall organ, so furious and resounding were the timpani strokes and the blasts of eight trumpeters; and yet at the same time there was the calmness of supreme authority in the gesture.

Giulini's authority may not quite extend to wresting an assured cantabile from the violins when they are playing in the upper register, but they were clearly on their toes in supplying accompanimental figures with exact simultaneity and a nice judgement of weight: if they were required to brush something in softly, they did so together and with the same compass. The Philharmonia Chorus, too, worked with unwavering discipline and colour, even dynamic over a wide range, at the thought of the *Sanctus*, for instance — they appeared to be expecting a rather different tempo.

LSO/  
Tilson Thomas  
Barbican

In the coming days Michael Tilson Thomas and the London Symphony Orchestra see much of each other. The American conducts the orchestra on its annual Shell UK tour. If they scale the same heights in Birmingham, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Leeds and Liverpool as they did here, it will have been a memorable week on the road.

Tilson Thomas's seemingly instinctive command — his Maazel-like ability to galvanize, even to mesmerize, his forces into unanimous execution of more or less any idea he chooses to espouse — has always been his prime asset. One was instantly aware of it in a performance of Berlioz's *Benvenuto Cellini* Overture which was immaculately precise yet fizzing with wit and a concern for idiomatic shading.

Now, however, he is revealing he has the patience to shape larger paragraphs and build expressive intensity in passages which do not respond to his more usual shock-

tactics. So the valedictory end of Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* was projected as something dramatic and still-evolving, not allowed to sink into its customary self-satisfied stupor. Earlier he elicited some splendidly brisk tempos. The "battle", after some unfortunate off-stage fanfares, heated into a positively irresistible cacophony, while Michael Davis's stylish violin solos ushered in a suitably urgent love-scene.

Perhaps orchestra and conductor were inspired by their participation in Cécile Olsz's vision of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. The French pianist was in brilliant form, opening up aspects of the piece I had never experienced before. All the notes, for instance. Her incisive pointing of passage-work and her volatile responsiveness to mood-changes were expected, but her headstrong power was astonishing. Possibly variations 17 and the ubiquitous 18 lacked witfulness, but instead there was a youthful ardour that dispelled all the work's *Dies irae* forebodings.

Richard Morrison

Academy of  
London/Stamp  
Elizabeth Hall

There was undoubtedly a concert going on here. You could tell that by the sight and sound of the Academy of London and their two guest soloists, one of them extremely eminent. But I was sure that there was also some kind of melodramatic ballet being danced simultaneously by the conductor, Richard Stamp. Not only was this remarkably athletic man engaged for much of the time in doing exactly what his name suggests: he also occupied himself with a rigorous routine that involved bending his

knees, kneeling alarmingly to and fro, violently shaking his head, grimacing and waving his arms around as if he were possessed by the very devil.

But thankfully his small orchestra seemed to be composed of reliable players able to deliver a decent performance of Tchaikovsky's *Serenade* for Strings with scarcely a glance in his direction. And it was an even greater relief that his strange manner failed to distract the soprano Gundula Janowitz in her singing of three Mozart arias (four if you count the encore, "Voilà ce que j'ai" — her gloriously pure voice is still in its full bloom). Her control over it remains absolute, as, for instance, her sudden pianissimo

high Cs in Fioriligi's aria "Per pietà" made abundantly clear. And, while the mock nobility in "Alma grande e nobile core" was delivered with the perfect degree of intimacy, the genuine passions of "Vado, ma dove" became all the more vivid through the delicacy of her tonal shadings.

Despite moments of ragged ensemble, all too understandable in the circumstances, the orchestra made some fine sounds both here and in Mozart's Piano Concerto in A, K414. Neil Rutman's reading of this work, however, was an awkwardly balanced if technically assured one.

Stephen Pettitt

## THEATRE

The Infernal  
Machine  
Lyric, Hammersmith

At the pivotal moment in the second act of Coteau's *moivre* farce of a play, the dashing young Oedipus (Lambert Wilson) is invited by a seemingly innocent nymph (Veronica Smart) to close his eyes. No sooner has he obeyed than the broken columns on the mound behind him soar into the air and erect themselves into an arch, the girl slides into the nearby statue of the Sphinx — whom, of course, she is — and scaly wings flap open against the rocks at her back.

It is an astounding transformation. A less imaginative production team would have lowered the arch from above but here it miraculously climbs up from the ground like a camel hurtling to its feet. Simon Callow (direction), Bruno Santini (design) and the cast seem set to accomplish something really remarkable — nothing less than the redemption of an honoured piece of the French poetic drama of the *entre deux guerres*, a genre regarded with the deepest suspicion this side of Calais.

Coteau begins his reworking of the legend with soldiers treading the sleepily raked, Cyclopean battlements of Thebes where dead Laius, like Hamlet's father, has been heard uttering warning moans. Jocasta (Maggie Smith), like a society hostess visiting some intriguing night-spot with her beloved Tiresias (Robert Eddison), admires the physique of a young guard. Laius calls to her from within the granite in vain.

Macbeth  
Lyceum, Edinburgh

The first in a succession of occasional guest-directed productions, Jules Wright's beautiful, sombre *Macbeth* achieves its power through partnership. In the clearly determined vision underpinning Ms Wright's production lie both its strength and limitations — but it is wonderfully housed by Colin MacNeil's design, combining austerity with symbolic versatility.

Huge slabs of grey wall encase the stage: a Scottish castle unmistakably, but also a walled-in tomb, a dark barren cell in which Macbeth and those around him are caged, cribbed, confined. While surprise guillotine-swift doors may treacherously conceal and reveal, they also allow plays of light. Music threatens in the background and the whole stage can be screened off by a veil of foul rain (though occasional thunderous downpours make heavy weather too of audibility).

Against these primary colours the action is intense and understated. In keeping with the spirit of this most distilled

The conjunction of comedy with ominous hints of horror ahead works unexpectedly well. The text is already too generous with premonition, but Callow's own translation, vigorous much of the time and colloquial where possible, gives Jocasta a neat line about her jewelled brooch — "that makes everyone's eyes pop out". The voices of Smith and Eddison are two of the glories of the London stage, swooping, tender, direct yet tumultuous with echoes.

The faults in the play reveal themselves later. The Sphinx as personification of a death weary of killing must be accepted as Coteau's generalised, but his homosexual toying with the mother-son duet diverts the play into a sequence of start-and-stop love-scenes, coyly interrupting coitus with various stage mechanisms.

In the protracted bedroom scene Maggie Smith, white-faced like the young Barault in *Les Enfants*, and Lambert Wilson, strong in voice and presence, have to restrict themselves to endless remarks on the theme of his youth and her age. Significantly, the Sphinx actually tells him the answer to her riddle, converting it into a fact of adult life: the boys cannot be expected to grasp. The fourth act, covering the events of Sophocles's entire play, gives such a perfunctory treatment to the myth that the tragedy is never expressed.

And yet the imaginative and precisely colourful staging, the physical presence of the players and the odd line ringing out with its dreamlike marriage of sense and contradiction, all this makes the production — flawed though the text is, to the heart — a lively treat for the senses. Less so to the waking mind.

Jeremy Kingston

of Shakespeare's tragedies, this is a very purified production, creating a dark enclosed arena suspended from non-matality. It is an arena, however, of human possibility. The vice that grips and unites the Macbeths in this production feels unnatural, but not supernatural.

Within this scope Julie Covington and Jonathan Hyde are persuasive and well balanced — their Macbeths are almost one body, in love, excited by one another and quickened by the thrill of danger. United first by purpose, then by deed, they end up empty, barren and alone.

Their final isolation and barrenness are echoed throughout the production as characters, isolated in pools of light, address the audience more than each other. This, together with some underdeveloped minor parts, does bring its problems — some scenes are static to the point of tedium and the play's political themes wither desperately. It is a production of force and conviction, focused by vivid, starkly effective images, but what it sorely lacks is shading and a whole darker, more ambivalent dimension.

Sarah Hemming

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# Police control: who's in charge?



In the second of a five-part series we describe how the power is allocated and talk to the men who wield it

## Part 2: Divisions of duty

The history of the British police is peppered with minor skirmishes between chief constables and politicians but in the past five years confrontation has reached a peak. Now the question of who controls the police will be a major issue at the next general election.

Liverpool councillors have quarrelled incessantly with their chief constable, while in Manchester plans to mount armed patrols in the city met with an outcry. During the miners' strike, left-wing councillors in South Yorkshire tried to stop the chief constable spending money on policing the dispute. The refusal of some police authorities to countenance plastic bullets has led the Home Office to create a central store. In London a number of local councils have banned the police from entering schools on educational visits.

Urban politicians want greater influence in police activity. Shire politicians are worried about the increase in power at the centre. Home Office ministers warn that Labour plans for community involvement will mean that opponents of the police will be placed in power over them. After 20 years the tripartite arrangement for sharing control of the police between chief constables, police authorities and ministers is under attack.

Enshrined in the 1964 Police Act, the aim of the arrangement was to create checks and balances, allowing play for national or local interests without unnecessary conflict. The Home Secretary has extremely wide powers to influence the nature of policing. His remit covers the pay and regulations of the police, the monitoring of the service through a network of inspectors of constabulary, approval of candidates for chief constable and the removal of incumbents when necessary.

Perhaps the most important practical function is the payment of a central grant normally representing half of each force's annual budget. At the same time the Home Secretary is the police authority for the Metropolitan Police, the country's largest force. Budget estimates for 1986-7 show that the central government contribution to policing in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will top £2.8 billion.

At a local level, policing devolves to individual chief constables and police authorities made up of local con-

"Political" strikes and riots have created bitter divisions between the police and local authorities, while the Home Secretary's role is also under attack.

cillors (two thirds) and local JPs (one third). Under the Act the authorities are responsible for securing "the maintenance of an adequate and efficient police force" which means they decide the choice of a chief constable, subject to the approval of the Home Secretary, and they can also discipline him or his senior officers. They shape his budget and the general logistics of his force but he controls operational matters.

The 1962 Royal Commission on the police also suggested that the authorities had responsibility for fostering good police and public relations plus the task of guiding or advising the chief constable on local problems. He has the basic duty under the 1964 act of conducting the "direction and control" of his force.

According to a judgment in 1968, "no minister can tell him he must or must not keep observation on this place or that, he must or must not prosecute this man or that - nor can any police authority tell him so. The responsibility is on him. He is answerable to the law and the law alone."

But it is argued by chief constables that they are accountable in other ways - through the courts, or to police authorities and the Home Office. The 1964 act says that a chief constable may have to submit a report to his authority on policing matters they might raise.

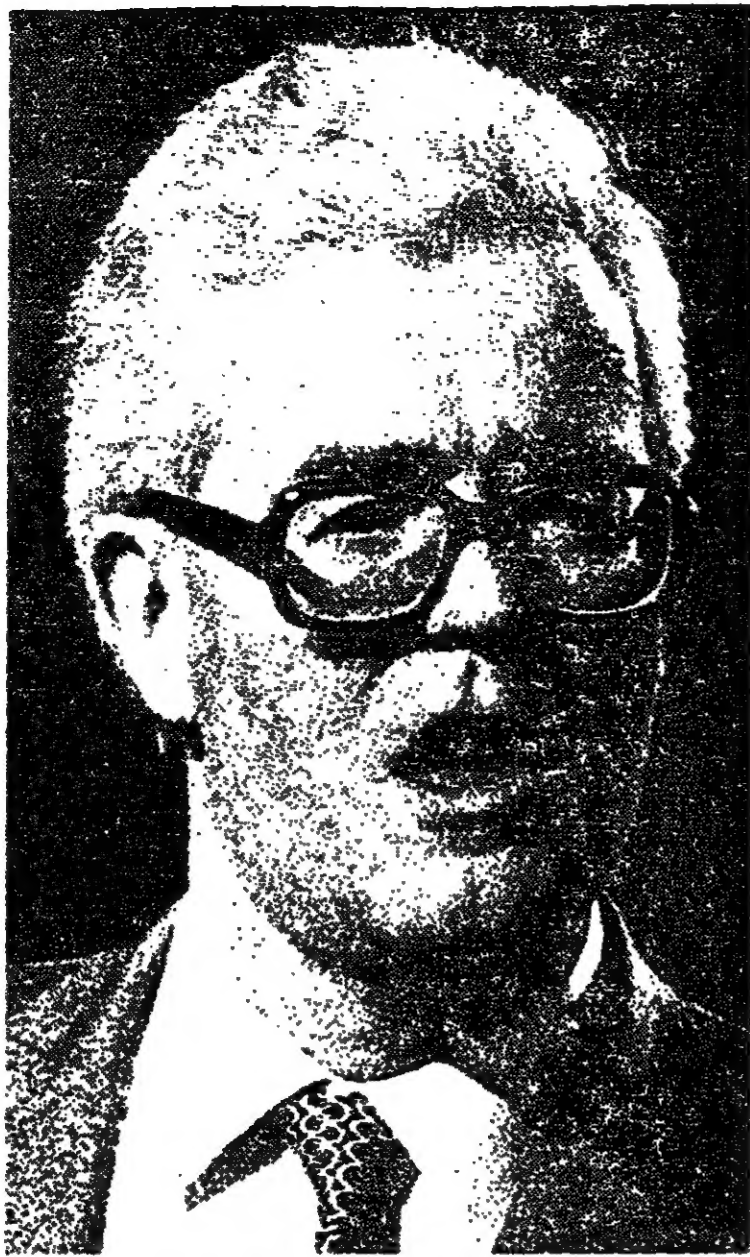
The chief constable can refuse if he considers the information would not be in the public interest or comes outside the authority's remit. If the two then disagree the Home Secretary arbitrates.

The Home Secretary, too, can demand reports on policing matters - for example, the call for a report from the Essex chief constable into the investigation on the Jeremy Bamber case.

Chief constables themselves have been less than happy in the past about the workings of the tripartite arrangement. In the 1970s the decision to create a Police Complaints Board was seen as a threat to the chief officer's autonomy and a step towards centralism.

But the main source of friction in recent years has been between police authorities, largely in the urban forces, and their chief constables. Despite the abolition of the large metropolitan authorities and their replacement by joint boards of local councillors and JPs, the trouble may not stop.

Stewart Tendler



Distanced: Douglas Hurd, anxious to preserve police independence

## Capturing public support

Crude crime statistics and clear-up rates are no measure of the police's true value, says Sir Kenneth Newman, head of Britain's largest force

Sir Kenneth Newman does not talk like a policeman. His vocabulary is suave, managerial and organizational; he gives the impression that he considers himself not so much a crime fighter as a chief executive, whose field of operation happens to be police work rather than groceries or coal.

Aged 60, and approaching the end of his career, he has been the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police for four years, during which time he has completely reorganized the force geographically, shortened its command structures and increased its efficiency and scientific sophistication.

He has not made the progress he hoped for, however, in capturing public support for the police; relations between police and blacks remain intractably tense; organized crime syndicates are spreading their tentacles; and inner-city rioting is a constant possibility. Despite the Chancellor's autumn statement last week that the total increased provision for the police during the next three years will be £1.26 billion, Sir Kenneth has a force which he believes is severely undermanned.

The public is interested in only one thing: are the police "winning the battle against crime"? On that criterion the figures suggest not. London's reported crime continues to rise; the police's clear-up rates remain abysmal. But Sir Kenneth does not accept the crude statistical test for the police's success or failure.

"It makes more sense to be judged on that range of crime on which the police could be expected to make an impact - murder, violent wounding and assaults, kidnappings, armed robberies. If you look at those, we're not doing too badly. But for the great majority of crime it is unreasonable to expect the police by themselves to make much of an impact."

"If people looked at it rationally, the volume of reported crime would be regarded more sensibly as an indicator of the health of society generally, and of the performance of agencies other than the police, like parents and schools."

When he took over as Commis-

sioner, he put "relations between the police and the public" as the most important issue facing the Met. The inability of the police to prevent and detect crime on their own is a cornerstone of his philosophy.

He is proud of the 5,000-plus neighbourhood watch schemes that have been set up since he became Commissioner and of the growth of liaison and consultation with local communities. But, according to polls which Scotland Yard itself has commissioned, public satisfaction with the police remains at a stubborn 75 per cent or so, which suggests that up to a million adult Londoners have their reservations. Some of the successes which he claims have their negative aspects as well.

Neighbourhood watch schemes still tend to congregate in middle-class areas among people already

**6 If people looked at it rationally, the volume of reported crime would be regarded more sensibly as an indicator of the health of society generally**

well disposed towards the police, though there have been a few breakthroughs into the less promising territory of council estates and high-rise blocks.

Nor does the neighbourhood watch necessarily reduce crime. Sir Kenneth admits that there is a strong displacement effect. "There is evidence of several kinds of displacement - spatial, from one area to another; temporal, from one time of day to another; and tactical, moving from one crime to another, burglary to street robbery for instance," he explains.

He has far less cause for optimism about relations between police and

As befits a former diplomat who once served in Peking, Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, looks at his relationship with the police with professional detachment. He cultivates an appearance of almost deliberate powerlessness when it comes to police operations.

Mandarins looking for a malleable minister might welcome him as one of their own. But appearances are deceptive. He gives his recreation as writing thrillers and one of his books is *The Smile on the Face of the Tiger*. Behind his quiet and careful words in this interview with *The Times* he discloses a fundamental belief in the rule of law.

As the forces under their command have grown larger, police chiefs in many people's eyes have become powerful figures, who are not subject to control. Hurd does not agree. He says they must be independent to operate within the law, and that the constraint of the law is sufficient without his intervention.

For those outside the corridors of power, the combination of chief constables and Home Secretary looks as if it could be overwhelming, particularly in the use of a general strategy during time of unrest.

But Hurd is reassuring. "All I can say is that, as Minister of State during most of the miners' strike, it wouldn't have occurred to me or the Home Secretary or any of us to call a meeting with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to decide how it should be done. And they would have been horrified if we had."

One litmus test is the mutual aid organized from the National Reporting Centre, ostensibly run by ACPO. Some would find it difficult to believe that ACPO by itself decided on such a major change in policing, to organize the massive transfer of resources, without having had some guidance from the Home Office.

"Well they did; it did because it was necessary," Hurd says. "There was no new principle of mutual aid."

## The low profile policy

The Home Secretary is responsible to the Commons for the police. Should he be free to take a direct hand in tactics? Douglas Hurd thinks not

The principle was as old as the hills. Mutual aid would not require his approval. He would be notified.

The same sort of deliberate, political powerlessness applies to the manual that was produced by ACPO on police tactics for use on occasions such as the miners' strike or other major public disorder. It has never been published in full. ACPO takes the view that to do so would help those against whom the tactics might be used.

Hurd knows what is in it, but asked if he would have to approve it, he replies: "No. Oh, no."

The ACPO then could presumably, within the manual, introduce all sorts of measures without the Home Secretary's approval? Hurd says: "This is operational independence. They are under the law. There is no exemption from the law: the doctrine of the use of reasonable force, to take one example. They are entitled to use only the same amount of reasonable force as any other citizen."

"Supposing you have a riot of the

same ferocity as in Tottenham a year ago. Supposing this time that police decided to use their plastic baton rounds to protect their men. I think that is part of the operational independence of the police and they should be able to do that. It's a decision which has to be taken very quickly. To give the Home Secretary the power of veto might mean the decision couldn't be taken in a timely way."

One of the safeguards against overwhelming police power is the number of different forces in the country. Hurd is in favour of that and against a national force. The problem, however, is that the police these days are stretched in so many different directions, having so many different roles: the armed policeman in a siege one day may be helping an old lady over the road the next.

Some police see a case for a separate force to handle disorder and terrorism. Mr Hurd does not. "The idea of caged tigers to be unleashed upon the crowd is wrong and contrary to the tradition of British policing," he says.

Yet there is a gap between police and public in some places and Mr Hurd knows it. The strategy to deal with it includes consultative groups, recruiting of ethnic minorities, and neighbourhood watch schemes.

The long stop for relationships potentially fraught with difficulty is the Police Complaints Authority. It is still bedding down, Hurd says, but its independent supervision of the handling of complaints is proving its worth.

When there is public concern about a particular policing issue that the Inspectorate cannot sort out, Whitehall's way is to set up a working group. One has been established, for example, over the use of firearms. All aspects, including procedures and training, are to be considered. The report is nearing completion and Hurd has promised to make its conclusions known to the House.

Peter Evans



Organized: Sir Kenneth Newman, worried by the manpower shortage made arbitrarily. We go out and sample market preferences. That public preference is clearly for more bobbies on the beat.

Sir Kenneth's early years at the Yard were bedevilled by a suspicious force's resistance to his methods and philosophy. He was accused of being too much the theoretician, too absorbed with planning at the expense of action, in essence, too "soft". Sir Kenneth is irritated when people see organization and action as contradictory aims. "I think gradually they're begin-

Marcel Berlins

TOMORROW

Law school: training the bobby for the beat

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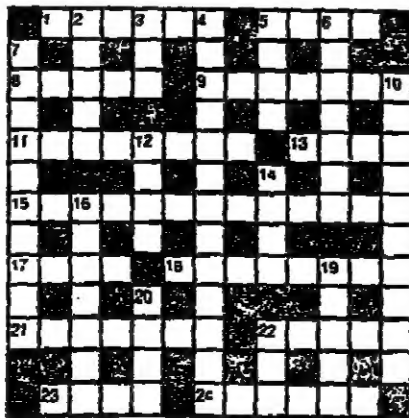
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11 Mislay (8)  
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15 Contractions (13)  
17 Baby carriage (4)  
18 Violentized rubber investor (18)  
21 Prohibition (7)  
22 At the time that (5)  
23 Humble (4)  
24 Chatter (6)

- DOWN  
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3 Ridicule (3)  
4 Driest gland secret (13)  
6 Vast (4)  
7 Swaggy (7)  
9 Thyroid cartilage (5,5)



- 10 Minor road (4,6)  
12 Suggestive look (4)  
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## FASHION by Suzy Menkes

## King of the supple suit

close up

NINO CERRUTI

is among the fans of Nino Cerruti (below), whose restrained style and classic cut have gained him a crown



The suit is the fashion statement which opens the 20th century, says Nino Cerruti. "It represents our century of industry." The Italian-born designer can claim to have invented the man's suit as we know it — light, supple, sexy and a symbol of power dressing that has conquered the globe.

"The only things that last in fashion are clothes that have a real reason," says Cerruti. "For both men and women, our subconscious demands that we wear clothes that work with life."

This autumn in London, Nino Cerruti has opened his twenty-fifth shop. It is dedicated to the quiet principles of fashion which he has practised from his Paris headquarters for the past 20 years. Those qualities were once considered essentially English: tradition, quiet good taste, classic cut, fine fabrics and a lack of show.

Cerruti has stayed with his style come hell or hot pants or, as he puts it, he has "protected a certain number of values against the barbarian invasion. For a number of years I was pretty much alone among the crazy and outrageous fashions."

Nino Cerruti has a more flamboyant side to his career. He is increasingly suitor to the stars, including Kathleen Turner, Hollywood's lat-

Kathleen Turner, Hollywood's new queen of curves,

est Queen of the Curves, who smouldered at his Paris show in a sober grey striped suit and says that she likes the "restraint" of his designs. Cerruti also tailors for Jack Nicholson and for Sting, whose sharp suits set style for the young.

Cerruti's success as a new generation tailor comes from the fine clothes made by the company his grandfather founded in northern Italy in 1881.

Seeing the ready-to-wear way of the world back in 1957, the young Nino set up a tailoring factory which shadowed the successful commercial growth of the Italian men's wear industry.

Cerruti now vies for the title of King of the Suit with Giorgio Armani, who trained for three years with Cerruti. Both designers make clothes that are free from the *bravura* which characterizes Italian men's fashion and makes Englishmen nervous.

"A suit is done for a person, not for an audience," says Cerruti. "It will never be more important than when that person is wearing it. But you can still combine moderation and whimsicality."

He designs sports clothes as well as tailoring and plays with colour, making a classic jacket in anthracite tweed flecked with yellow, green, rose pink, picking up the same colours in tender cashmere sweaters, so-



The ultimate tuxedo: grey and black check dinner jacket, plain trousers £815, pleat-front dinner shirt, silvered tie and cummerbund. All from Cerruti, 78 New Bond Street, W1



New generation tailoring: woven stripe suit £495, primrose and grey check shirt £55, cashmere sweater and toning tie. All from Cerruti. Photographs by CHRIS DAWES

ber collegiate ties or Argyle checked socks.

"There are new volumes, new materials, new techniques and new ideas," he says. "But you cannot separate the material you use from the garments and you cannot make the shape without understanding the key. Tailoring is something that follows your body but does not define it."

Nino Cerruti is 56, a family man with an elegant French wife and a son and daughter who may carry on the family business. He is wearing a knitted polo-collared sweater,

an invention of the 1930s which he describes as another fashion symbol of the century, along with the jogging suit.

His women's wear collections, launched in 1976, are played out in soft flannel, camel hair or even pin-stripes, all based on the lines of the male wardrobe. "But not that horrendous word 'unisex'," he says. "There is a kind of classic comfort that comes from using men's materials in a feminine way. Man has been 100 years ahead of woman in getting rid of gratuitous decoration."

He dismisses the wild and

whacky: "There has been such an orgy of fashion and too much of it has never gone further than the runway on which it was presented. Fashion is not an abstract exercise like pure art, that you do today and wait 20 years for people to understand. The main purpose of fashion is to make people look better."

His shops are designed by his friend, the Milanese architect Vico Magistretti, who shares Cerruti's love of natural materials and classic modernity. This has been interpreted in Bond Street as a two-floor shop with polished

Cumbrian slate floors and maple wood fittings rounded off in tan leather.

Does Cerruti really believe that his men's ready-to-wear suits, which sell at prices not far off Savile Row, are as desirable as the tailor-made suit? In England, he says, "the fine work of the tailors is not followed up by the clothing industry. The rules of the game are different in France and Italy. Italian fashion was born with ready-to-wear and is more practical."

His off-the-peg suits come in a variety of torso shapes, shoulder widths and propor-

tions. The prices (about £500 for a suit and £300 for a jacket) point out, he says, the difference between the expensive ("a high price without value behind it") and the costly ("that gives real value").

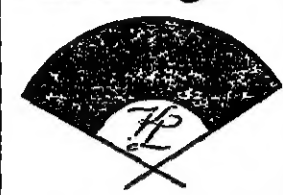
What does he think of the return of the suit, and the revenge of the formal on a decade of casual clothes? "We have had our period of beauty and freedom in fashion," he says with a twinkle. "There will be a return to structures that echoes a return to moral values. I think it will be good for suits, but the present is much more fun."

## PEOPLE

## Back to nature

I hear that photographer John Swannell, whose cult book of nudes *A la nature* is launched by Quartet on Thursday, has some more surprises up his record sleeve. Versatile Swannell has designs on *Duran Duran*, and will soon be showing us *Simon le Bon* wearing "an Old Etonian look". Any hopes of seeing *Simon* or his lascivious wife *Yvonne* in the buff at this week's bash at *Hamilton's Gallery* are dashed by the discovery that the fashion crowd are expected to come fully dressed.

## Fandango



Karl Lagerfeld is expecting all his greatest fans tomorrow when he holds open shop in Bond Street from 11.30am with *Anna Piagi* to celebrate the publication of their joint *chef d'oeuvre*. His signature is yours for the (vast) price of the *Thames and Hudson* tome. And the shop's fashion director *Lady Rendlesham* will be happy to let him sign all the frocks you care to buy.

## Money talks

What was behind the betrothal pictures of the sleek Italian tycoon *Carlo De Benedetti* sitting with a shy *Yves Saint Laurent* against the panther fur cushions in Yves's Paris apartment? Almost all was revealed last Thursday when *Pierre Bergé*, Yves's constant companion and business brain, announced a financial marriage of convenience which gives the Italian company a 25 per cent stake in YSL. And why should a company going public in 1989, and which has given Yves houses in Morocco, a Proustian folly in France and a fabled art collection, need more working capital? Paris gossip is hot on the scent of *Charles of the Ritz*, the company that owns YSL fragrances (as well as *Gianni Versace's*) and is currently up for sale.

## Sole sisters under the skin

Rugged winter shoes are taking a walk on the wild side this season (Rebecca Tyrrel writes). The newest women's shoes are made from pony-skin, dyed in vivid autumn greens and russets and patterned with animal prints, leopard spots or zebra stripes. Tough soles are cut in geometric shapes to lift you out of muddy ruts or grip slippery city streets.

Stout walking shoes are decorated with shiny studs, mottled leather and punching moccasins lose their district nurse look with a palette of autumnal colours from chestnut brown to mossy green.



Laser blue suede slip-ons, £65 from Stephanie Kellan, 49 Sloane Street, SW1



Black leather and print moccasins, £32.99, Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street, W1



Bottle green pony-skin boots, £75 by Mulberry, 11-12 Gess Court, W1



Tan leather and suede boots, £44.95, Baratts, 396 Oxford Street, W1



Emerald green suede moccasins, £29.99 by Bally from all branches



Brown leather and green suede shoes by Bertie, 409 Oxford Street, W1

## Liberty shopping



This week *The Times*, in conjunction with Liberty, is offering its readers an exclusive opportunity to spend an evening shopping for Christmas when the store is closed to the general public. On Tuesday December 2, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, *Times* readers are invited to shop and take part in a whole host of special activities at the Regent Street store.

Fashion editor Suzy Menkes will join a team of *Times* experts to answer your questions on Christmas gifts, introduce milliner Kirsten Woodward, and sign her latest book, *The Royal Jewels*.

For those readers who are unable to come to London, Liberty stores throughout the country will similarly be opened exclusively for *Times* readers on the same day at the same time. The addresses are listed below.

Each store will feature a free draw, with prizes including a £100 Liberty gift voucher. You will be welcomed with a glass of wine on arrival and a special Liberty gift. In addition, for every £50 you spend during the evening, Liberty will present you with a £5 gift voucher. Further details will be announced tomorrow and on Friday.

How to take up our invitation: Cut out the voucher below and send it to Liberty Evening, *The Times*, PO Box 396, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2XH by Wednesday November 19.

Please be sure to indicate which branch you will visit from the following: Regent Street, London; New Bond Street, Bath; Trinity Street, Cambridge; Burgate, Canterbury; George Street, Edinburgh; Buchanan Street, Glasgow; King Street, Manchester; London Street, Norwich; Davygate, York.

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"There is simply nothing to compare with the wonderful feel of silk. It is a 100% natural and organic fibre, luxurious to the touch, rich and sensuous on the skin and elegantly beautiful as it moves."

He naturally holds strong views about the silk used in fashion and tailoring these days. He believes there is only one ideal silk material for men's shirts — this is technically known as 'pure silk spun'. Kurt von Herzfeld says:

"Pure silk spun makes the perfect man's luxury shirt, both in weight and feel."

I select the finest silk from the Far East and carefully preserve its natural luxurious qualities. My special techniques also include treatments for wear, easy-care and guarantees against shrinkage. In my judgement, nothing compares with my 'pure silk spun' for a luxury shirt. It may take an experienced silk merchant to provide the best silk, but anyone can tell the difference when it's made up into a shirt.

"My shirts are made by one of the top shirtmakers in England, and I believe, the only shirtmakers who can do justice to this luxurious fabric."

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Bubbling under

Scotland Yard is about to put in a civilian to police its own public relations department. Front-runner as director of the 70-strong department is Robin Goodfellow, temporarily marketing chief at English Heritage, an organization whose only recent dealings with the police were at Stonehenge. He succeeds Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, who enjoyed a salary at least £4,000 higher than his civilian replacement. I understand that two senior civil servants in line for the post pulled out when they heard it paid a mere £26,000 (or thereabouts). Goodfellow says he has only been "paper-pushing" during his months at English Heritage. Such modesty will encourage talk that the Yard has downgraded the crucial job of smoothing its public image. After all, the last civilian to hold the post was Bob Gregory, best remembered not as a police spokesman but as the inventor of Schweppes' Schlitz. You know who slogan.

### Left hook

Neil Kinnock is mistaken if he thinks he has tamed the hard left and firmly established his leadership of the party. John Wilton, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Birmingham, Edgbaston, launches a virulent attack against leader and deputy leader in this month's *London Labour Briefing*. "The party leadership will be at its weakest after the election when a Kinnock-led government operating Hattersley's economic policy runs into trouble," he predicts; when the party leadership started to put the screws on the working class, "it must be challenged." Wilton says the left must find its own leader and develop an overall strategy. Turning the party's new red rose symbol on its head, he adds: "The rose cannot be pruned. It must be dug up."

Impressed by the political wisdom contained in Douglas Hurd's new novel, *Palace of Enchantment*, John Butcher, the industry minister, has told his private staff that invitation to the office Christmas party is conditional on their reading it.

### Tearaway Terry

I gather that the contemporary angel of international affairs, Terry Wate, could be a bit of a devil in his younger days. This I have from a surely reliable source, his brother David, who runs a wallpaper shop in the Oxfordshire town of Witney. Apparently the two of them used to belong to a *Just William* type gang which was for ever getting into scrapes; one winter a neighbour caught the lads shoving snowballs through his letterbox. The gang turned tail and ran. The victim identified only one — the young T.W., who even then stood head and shoulders above the rest. This kind of thing happened so regularly that it finally taxed the diplomacy of Terry's father, a local bobby.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's comforting to know that a well stocked fall-out shelter has its uses."

### Namely, no

It seems Oxford magistrates' court has an odd way of interpreting last month's High Court ruling that it is illegal to withhold the names of magistrates from the public. Last Thursday Julian Jacotet asked the court for that morning's list of JPs. He must apply in writing, he was told. He did — but has not yet had a reply. Stuart Biggin, the clerk, tells me Jacotet's initial request was refused because junior staff had been instructed not to give names unless the applicant could demonstrate he had "sufficient interest" in the matter — the phrase in the High Court judgement. Jacotet is not only an Oxfordshire county councillor but Labour's spokesman on Thames Valley police authority. He is taking up the matter with the chairman of the Oxford magistrates' bench.

A disconcerting range of attractions at the Papagayo Park leisure centre in Acapulco, Mexico: mechanic games, restaurant, electric chairs...

### Actor's share

Whose is the coaxing Welsh voice urging us all to buy shares in British Gas? None other than actor Anthony Hopkins, darling of the left for his portrayal of Lambert La Roux in Howard Brenton and David Hare's anti-establishment play *Pravda*. "He doesn't want any publicity about the British Gas assignment," Hopkins's agent tells me.

PHS

# Make unions your partners

by Gavin Laird

The media projection of the union-employer relationship is a travesty of the truth, but we have only ourselves to blame.

As general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, I find myself from time to time addressing potential investors to convince them that Britain is a good place to establish a manufacturing facility, thereby creating jobs. But I am constantly appalled by the perception of the industrial relations scene in our country as viewed from Geneva, Frankfurt, New York or Tokyo.

Why are we so self-destructive? Why is it that failure at a factory is worthy of national comment when at the same plant a strike-free, trouble-free period of years never gets mentioned? We live in a rough competitive world; why do we make it tougher?

In any 10-year period since 1945 our country's place in the International Labour Organization league for lost time through labour disputes has always been around halfway. We have been consistently worse than West Germany, France, Japan, Sweden and the USA. Equally consistently we have been better than Australia, Canada, Italy, Ireland and Spain.

Is it not time for all of us who are interested in making our country more successful, more competitive, to be seen together as advocates in those things that we have in common? We all want to see unemployment reduced and living standards improved. How do we together achieve these goals? Certainly not as Mr Kenneth Clarke advocates, by lowering wages. It is not high wages we suffer from — indeed, sadly, it is the opposite: Britain is a low wage economy — it is high unit costs that make our products uncompetitive.

My union wants companies to be successful and profitable. It encourages members to identify with the company that employs them and advocates single status for blue and white collar workers. It wants to see the status of manufacturing industry enhanced, with technicians and professional managers not only paid much more than lawyers or their like but also further up the social scale.

These aspirations, I believe, are not so far removed from those of many members of the CBI. So why don't we find ways of jointly saying so? It is our

fault for failing to put across the positive message. We are all too often entrenched in our own rebuttal, blaming the "other side" for our own failings while our foreign competitors walk away with the prize.

I am not naive enough to think that our different roles can or indeed should be obscured. The unions want a bigger public sector; the CBI wants a smaller one. But to dwell on those real differences is missing the point. Our joint challenge is how continuously to enlarge the national cake, and only then to negotiate our respective share.

Trade unions have been their own worst enemy and have paid the price for complacency. For the first time since the war less than half the work force belongs to a union. As a result, trade unionism has had to become more professional and sophisticated.

Whatever the pattern of employment in the future, it will adapt and demand more of a say in the organization of production. How much better for employers to have a working relationship with that force and rebuild an industrial base worthy of the 21st century.

Extracted from a speech to the CBI conference at Bournemouth yesterday.

## Philip Jacobson on the new threat to Philippine democracy

# Can Cory fend off a coup?



Mrs Aquino came to power in February only after Enrile (above) deserted Marcos in her favour. Now he is openly challenging her leadership in a struggle in which Washington is increasingly involved.

When Corason Aquino was preparing to fly to the US six weeks ago on her first presidential visit outside the Philippines, the Manila coffee house gossip was that she risked going the same way as other Third World leaders overthrown by a coup almost as soon as the seat belt sign went off. In the event, she returned to a warm welcome after a triumphant tour. But as she gets down to business in Japan today on another official mission, the rumours of an imminent move to overthrow her nine-month-old government have reached such a fever pitch that the country's most senior army officer has felt obliged to give a public warning that "military adventures" plotting against the government would be forcefully "neutralized."

It is no secret at whom this message is directed: Mrs Aquino's defence minister, Juan Ponce Enrile, and the circle of impetuous young colonels who surround him. As part of an increasingly aggressive campaign of agitation against her administration and what he considers its unacceptably left-wing policies, Enrile has even delivered a deliberately provocative speech to 10,000 supporters of the deposed Ferdinand Marcos while they chanted "Down with Cory."

To some observers, he seems to have moved to the very brink of treason. How else, they ask, to describe the action of a senior minister who holds secret talks with disaffected army officers to discuss the logistics of overthrowing the government in which he serves?

But then, Enrile has worries of his own. The only member of the previous cabinet to serve in the Aquino government, he has just learned that he is under investigation by the US Justice Department for the possible misuse of substantial amounts of American aid money during the Marcos years. What's more, there are good grounds for suspecting that these allegations were deliberately leaked in Washington as part of a strategy to undermine his challenge to Mrs Aquino. It is known that the Reagan administration has already told Enrile, in robustly undiplomatic language, of its displeasure at his loud assertions that he has no legal mandate to rule. The White House then underlined that message by publicly proclaiming "complete and unequivocal support" for Mrs Aquino.

But with 20 years of roughhouse politics behind him, Enrile is a tough and wily adversary. He understands how touchy Filipinos can be when they sniff US interference in the affairs of what was once Uncle Sam's only colony. Mrs Aquino's official spokesman did her no favour by announcing that she had received "the blessings of the Great White Father, Reagan," and Enrile

snapped up the opening. He denounced the reported Justice Department allegations as "veiled blackmail" and declared that he would not be deterred from serving the national interest.

Fighting talk, laying bare the depths of the divisions within a government which was deliciously welcomed by Filipinos yearning for national reconciliation. True, "Johnny" Enrile and Corason Aquino were always an odd couple. He had, after all, locked up her late husband, Benigno, on orders from Marcos, and although his last gasp defection was probably the crucial factor in her election triumph, his nose for intrigue, coupled with an undisputed taste for the high life, contrasts sharply with the new president's simple and direct style.

Today, as he challenges Mrs Aquino to test her popularity by standing for election again, pours scorn on the draft constitution she is putting to a national referendum in January and drops unsubtle hints about his loyal but impatient supporters in the high command, a head-on collision that would end with his resignation or removal seems unavoidable. In either event that spells trouble, because Enrile insists that if anyone has to leave the coalition government, it is automatically dissolved.

The Reagan administration's keen interest in the outcome of the struggle embraces rather more than questions of constitutional legitimacy. Continued use of the two huge US military bases in the Philippines, Clark air field and the Subic Bay naval complex — remains central to Washington's strategic planning for the region. The threat posed to these installa-

tions by the communist guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) and the clear inability of the US-trained and equipped government troops to contain it was causing sharp concern long before Marcos was overthrown.

When President Aquino arrived in Washington for the first time, the word from the White House was that she would be expected to get much tougher with the rebels before receiving more aid for the crippled Philippine economy. Her own preference for social and economic reform to remove the root cause of the NPA's growing strength, accompanied by the release of prominent communists and attempts to negotiate a ceasefire, was clearly not what official circles there wanted to hear.

In the Philippines, Enrile and his staff were telling every journalist who crossed their path that the president's soft line on the NPA had seriously undermined the military's advantage on the battlefield. Those of us who have observed the ineptly led and demoralized Philippine army in action might question whether it was actually making any progress at all, but that only adds force to warnings from the Enrile camp that the war is approaching a critical point at which the guerrillas could seize, and probably maintain, the advantage. The truth which Mrs Aquino insists must precede her cherished peace talks would, it was argued, merely provide the NPA with a chance to regroup and step up preparations for a new offensive.

It was something of a surprise, then, to hear at the end of last month, a State Department spokesman lavish praise on the

Aquino government for "accepting" a reform strategy which will result in a stable, democratic and prosperous Philippines. Simultaneously, Reagan administration sources left to be known that Mrs Aquino's handling of the clash with Enrile was much admired in Washington. Does that indicate a sudden conversion in American thinking, a shift to the olive branch over the sword? Was it pure coincidence that the damaging allegations against Enrile appeared a few days later?

Most observers in Manila believe that this outspoken US support has strengthened Mrs Aquino's position immeasurably. The White House's lead was swiftly followed by two immensely influential figures in the Philippines. First, the revered (and famously shrewd) Cardinal Jaime Sin, Archbishop of Manila, emphasised his approval of the president's peace initiative. Then General Fidel Ramos, the armed forces chief of staff who had joined Enrile in turning against Marcos in February, made it clear that he would order his troops into action against any uprising.

Yet for all that, the situation remains highly volatile. A series of bomb explosions in public places has been attributed to "destabilizing elements"; there is unexplained shooting in the night. The prospect of a temporary ceasefire ultimately being agreed with the NPA, to be followed by formal peace negotiations, does nothing to reduce the tension. Nobody can say how Enrile and the young officers around him would receive that. For Corason Aquino, the greatest test of her young presidency may be just around the corner.

## Spring election? More likely autumn

One does not need a particularly Machiavellian cast of mind to understand attempts by the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, to play down the imminence of an election following his autumn statement last week. After all, he has yet to engineer the "election boom" with which he is credited. That decision remains to be taken in the Budget. And there are a great many uncertainties between now and then, particularly the strength of sterling and the trend in oil prices.

So far decisions have been taken on only one side of the government's accounts, with agreement on big increases in public spending. If the spending increases turn out to be a straight swap for tax cuts, leaving the planned level of borrowing unchanged, then that would put less money in people's pockets than cutting taxes.

It is very difficult to find anyone, either in politics or in the financial markets, who believes there will be no fiscal relaxation. The example of Roy Jenkins, Lawson's predecessor but four, who is alleged to have left the economic stimulus too late in 1970, is well remembered. But the scale of any relaxation is, at this

stage, known neither to the markets nor to the Chancellor.

Whatever happens in the Budget, the economic outlook seems to point more to an autumn election than a dash to the polls in the spring. If putting money in people's pockets is what wins elections, then it is significant that the Treasury's most recent forecast, issued with the autumn statement, suggests that consumer spending will be rising faster in the second half of 1987 than the first.

Investment is also expected to be growing more strongly in the second half of the year. Taking consumer spending, investment and exports together, the economy is likely to expand almost twice as fast in the second half as in the first half.

Faster growth will help to create more jobs. But a more important influence on the crucial electoral statistic of unemployment will probably be the government's own special employment measures.

Interviewing of the long-term unemployed under the Re-start programme will have finished by next April, achieving both a shake-out of those not really available for work and some help in finding a job for the majority. On present indications, that could reduce the

numbers on the register by perhaps 140,000 below what they would otherwise be in time for a spring election.

An autumn election campaign, however, would benefit from the introduction of the two-year Youth Training Scheme announced in the 1985 Budget. This offers this year's school leavers the option of staying on for a second year's training which could keep up to 100,000 off the register next September.

The outlook for the balance of payments, too, points to a later date rather than an earlier one. Harold Wilson blamed his defeat in the 1970 election on an adverse set of trade figures released at a crucial moment during the campaign, and Mrs Thatcher will not want to become a second victim of the balance of payments.

The big drop in oil prices has drastically reduced the value of oil exports, leaving a hole in the current balance of payments which has been painfully obvious in recent months. Gradually, this hole should be filled as exporters take advantage of improved competitiveness stemming from the fall in the pound, and the predicted expansion of world trade as oil importers get round to

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

Roger Scruton

# Subversives from the suburbs

Two activities of the town hall radicals have captured the public's attention. One is the campaign of "anti-racism", which has spread through all local institutions, intimidating, censoring and punishing without regard for justice, truth or law. The other is the movement to disabuse children of their innocence, and to enlist them in the cause of sexual liberation.

Both movements are organized by "experts" who preach, cajole and scoff with all the philistine narrow-mindedness of our Victorian forebears, although without the Victorian respect for justice or the Victorian moral sense. Both derive their inspiration from the sub-Marxist literature that is issued or condoned by the Labour Education Authority. Both are part of a wider disaffection of a conscious movement to reject the norms and decencies of British society.

To an outsider there is a certain paradox in the fact that the "anti-racist" and "anti-heterosexual" campaigns should originate in the same muddled heads and call upon the same violent emotions. Those who preach "sensitivity" to the needs and feelings of the ethnic minorities, and who sanctimoniously pry into their neighbour's conscience for the least trace of some "racist" abomination, ought to know that neither Muslims from the Indian sub-continent, nor Gospel Christians from the Caribbean, desire to see their children exposed in school to the ethic of sexual liberation.

Contemplating the radical conscience, as it arbitrarily persecutes a Honeyford, a Savory or a McGoldrick, on the mere suspicion of having harboured a forbidden thought, while at the same time seeking to open the eyes of Muslim schoolgirls to the techniques of contraception and the delights of lesbian sex, one is struck by the immense and patronizing contempt for actual people by which the new puritan is animated. Nothing seems to matter to him as much as the public display of his unassailable rectitude. He cares not one jot if, in order to enjoy his posture as champion of the minorities against British culture, he must trample on every decency which the minorities hold dear. For him, the minorities are not actual people, with values and plights of their own, but simply means to his exultation — unconscious scripts in a battle not their own.

The stock response to the new puritanism is that given on this page by Anne Sofer on October 6. Scoffing at Kenneth Baker's agitation over the children's book entitled *Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin*, she dismissed the whole matter as of no particular importance. For a Secretary of State to exercise himself over a book which had already been withdrawn from circulation, and over an attitude which had, and over a support was, she implied, faintly ridiculous, and certainly not

something that we should expect from an Alliance government.

Unfortunately, not only is the situation far more serious than Mrs Sofer implies (the children's book in question being only one small component of the new "anti-heterosexual" curriculum whose resource list has been compiled by the ILEA. We can also have no confidence that an Alliance government would be either able or willing to snuff the tide. Members of the Liberal Party are prominent in the battle against the moral majority, and on all matters to do with sexual morality the Liberal Party has shown itself to be as authoritarian and as hostile to traditional values as the permissive puritans. Its attitude can be gauged from the behaviour of the London Boroughs' Grants Committee, appointed to succeed the GLC in administering the compulsory charity that is extorted from the ratepayers of London.

The Liberal councils hold the balance of power on this committee, which is chaired by David Williams of Liberal Richmond; and they have endorsed a grant of £120,000 to the London Lesbian and Gay Centre, of £27,000 to the Black Lesbian and Gay Group, of £80,000 to the Lesbian and Gay Employment Rights group; of £17,000 to the Lesbian Line; of £39,000 to the Lesbians and Policing Project; of £33,000 to the Gay London Police monitoring group; and a host of other grants to every kind of radical pressure group, from "Orinda Ltd, Lesbian Archives", to the "Chilean Women in Exile's Nursery".

It is not hard to explain the ease with which leftists and liberals enter into alliance against the moral majority. The new puritanism argues that majority values are inherently unjustifiable, because oppressive. The Liberal argues that all values are inherently unjustifiable, and therefore that none has a special right to prevail. But the effect is the same: to encourage those who challenge the majority values and who seek to undermine their authority.

Those who imagine that education is safer in the hands of a liberal than in those of a permissive puritan are therefore making a great error of judgment. Every egalitarian bid, once puffed up by public funds, and given the opportunity for self-advertisement, will enter its natural home, which is the state educational system. This dragon constantly seeks new ways of breaking down the "distinctions" by which our society is governed, new ways of destroying the "elitist" culture that has been entrusted to it. Until it is overcome the attack on majority values is bound to continue, and whether sanctioned by permissive fervour or by liberal indifference, its first and most important victims will always be children, since they alone are defenceless against its power. The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

moreover... Miles Kingston

# Reconsider your suspicion

## The Jury Murders (part 2)

(Story so far: Jack Lemass is on trial for the murder of a board of directors by engineering the crash of an executive jet. The jury is split: East Ender Wally Mayhew thinks he is innocent, while Professor Basil Friday thinks not and the foreman has no idea. After a night in a hotel, Friday becomes slightly clearer when Friday is found murdered.)

"This is the most extraordinary state of affairs," the judge told what remained of the jury. "You are here to pass verdict on a murder. Now, you yourselves are involved in a murder case, as one of you has been killed. It may even be that one of you is the murderer. Well, that is a matter for the police — my only concern is that you give me a verdict before another one of you is bumped off."

The judge spoke in a slightly off-hand manner, as well he might, poor thing. The fact of the matter was that he resorted once a week to a house of ill repute in otherwise respectable Bromley, and he had just learnt that the house had been raided. He hoped very much that he would not be implicated, but could not be sure that the police would have enough sense to leave him out of it. No wonder he felt worried.

Back in the jury room, the foreman solemnly addressed his fellow ten members. "The judge has permitted us to reach a verdict with only eleven members. Now, as you remember, the late Basil Friday was firmly convinced that Jack Lemass is guilty of the murders, and I venture to suggest that it would be a nice tribute to his memory if we all went along with that verdict."

"What a load of baloney," said Wally Mayhew. "I'm sorry in a way that the old fool's dead, but the best tribute we can pay him is to ignore his crackpot ideas."

"I must say," said a second member, "that the case against Lemass is too obvious to be convincing. If he had really wanted to murder all his colleagues, would he really have sabotaged the plane and then backed out of the flight ten minutes beforehand? It points the finger too clearly at him. It's such a clumsy murder."

murderer, a third. "Murders are only clever in books."

Reader, have you ever been on jury service? Do you remember the endless arguments that went round and round and got nowhere? Wouldn't it be a good idea if we skipped that and got to the bit where Wally Mayhew suddenly snapped his fingers and said: "I've just realized! I know where I've seen him before! Bimex, there's a turn-up for the book!"

"What are you talking about?" The judge. I run a small place in Bromley, sort of a... leisure centre, really. The judge goes there once a week. Could be useful."

At that very moment the door opened and the police came in, five of them. The jury room was bugged, of course, and they felt they had to cut off Wally's impending revelation.

"All right," said their leader, "I'm afraid we must arrest you all for the suspected murder of Professor Basil Friday."

"You'll do no such thing," said the foreman angrily. "A British jury cannot be intimidated with by anyone, not even the police, until it has reached a verdict."

"All right, then, we'll compromise. We'll arrest Wally Mayhew for the murder."

All eyes turned to Wally Mayhew. Mayhew's eyes were closed. On examination he was found to be dead. The jury foreman had struck again! Even the police, shocked by this development — after all, it had taken place in their presence, and they had noticed nothing.

"As the foreman of a ten-person jury, I must insist on asking the judge for a ruling," said the foreman, and nobody demurred. When, however, they re-entered the court, it was to be met with the sensational news that the judge would never sit in judgement again; he had just been found dead in his room, swinging from a beam...

(We have just received the alarming news that the best-selling author of *The Jury Murders* has been found dead at his home in Sussex. He was, apparently, lynched by a crowd of angry readers, incensed by the increasingly improbable plot and proliferation of senseless murders. As a mark of respect to him, this serial is stopped at this point.)





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

## UNITED FRONT

When European Community foreign ministers agreed their almost-united stance against Syria yesterday, they were doing no more than had been expected of them at their first meeting nearly two weeks ago. Their dilatoriness, however, is no reason for not applauding the strength of their statement.

Its absolute rejection of terrorism and its sponsors provides the sort of support the British Government has long requested for its own uncompromising attitude. The pledge to refrain from new arms sales to Syria is a step in the right direction, as is the commitment of European governments to closer observation of Syria's diplomatic activities.

The failure of Greece to append its signature is regrettable, but was predicted and indeed predictable. It should be regarded not so much a loss for the Community as for Greece itself, which cannot be considered a full member of the European Community until it has joined a cause which is so clearly in the interests of all Europe.

In common with most committee documents, the EEC condemnation of Syria has its limitations. As a statement of principle and intention, it is welcome. As a defined programme of action, it is less so. All manner of loopholes remain through which France's deals to free her hostages in Lebanon, arms sales covered by existing contracts, and dubious but un-

obtrusive diplomatic conduct will continue to pass unchecked.

The statements themselves inevitably have a platitudeous ring. Refusal to make them would, however, have indicated such an infirmity of purpose as positively to invite terrorist assaults. The value of such statements is always likely to be more moral than practical. In this respect the EEC's reiteration of its moral priorities has come not a moment too soon.

Recent, though as yet unconfirmed, reports about behind-the-scenes dealing between France and Syria and between the United States and Iran have called into question the determination of both countries to stand up to terrorists and their sponsors. France, all too ready to call an emergency meeting of European ministers when Paris was subjected to random bomb attacks, was less than enthusiastic about endorsing Britain's condemnation of Syria even after Syrian involvement in the Hindawi case had been so clearly shown in a London court.

The revelations about clandestine US overtures to Iran, a country - or more particularly, a regime - with which it had pledged to have no dealings because of its involvement in terrorism, similarly cast doubt on American steadfastness. Had nerve failed the country which had sought to discourage terrorism by bombing Libya?

In each case, the impression was created that national economic and diplomatic interests had been placed above concerted international action against terrorism - the only sort of action which stands any chance of success. So long as the European Community was unable even to articulate joint opposition to terrorism, there was a risk that the British Government would not only lose out economically and diplomatically to its partners and allies, but suffer isolation for its stand against terrorism as well.

In that event legitimate questions could have been raised about the wisdom of occupying the high moral ground. Might there not come a time, it could have been asked, when our own national interests would require a modification of our position; when the principle of having no truck with terrorism would have to be sacrificed so as not to jeopardize Britain's influence or trading position abroad; when only the careless terrorist caught red-handed need be exhibited and the others quietly expelled or exchanged for hostages?

Fortunately, that time has not arrived and, if civilised nations maintain some sort of united front, never will arrive. The benefits of opposing terrorism still outweigh the risks which attach to that opposition. Yesterday's EEC statement could not have been more opportune.

## A GULF OF MISUNDERSTANDING

The crisis over the taking of Western hostages in Lebanon is nothing to do with surrounding their release. As governments jostle to influence Iran they are finding, not for the first time, that the reverse is now more likely to be true. It is the government of the Ayatollah Khomeini which is once more calling the shots, with Saudi Arabia's best known Minister apparently one of the casualties and even Washington's Secretary of State looking like a dangerously near miss. It is a very tangled web that they have woven.

That the Iranian war effort in the Gulf has leaned heavily on covert shipments of arms has long been accepted as fact. That some of these have originated in Israel is no surprise, although the size and significance of Jerusalem's contribution has long remained a matter for debate. But the mere suggestion that the United States might also have been involved raises issues of a very different order.

The latest embarrassing revelations in Washington allege that the Reagan Administration (or some of those within it) started negotiating over the supply of military equipment 18 months ago. Three planeloads financed by the United States are said to have flown to Iran last year, enabling the subsequent release of the Rev Benjamin Weir. Early last summer, it would seem, three more shiploads of arms took a similar route via Elat to secure the freedom of the Rev Lawrence Jenko in July and Dr David Jacobson last week.

No-one could begrudge any of these men his return to his

family and friends Nor would one wish to jeopardise the release of other individuals in the hands of fanatics in Lebanon. But the circumstances in which they have been freed are highly questionable and, in the absence of denials from the White House, one must assume that these reports are not unfounded. The same applies to the claim that the Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Yamani, lost his job recently by opposing his government's plan to help Iran by raising the price of crude oil.

There are, of course, sound arguments in favour of strengthening Tehran's contacts with the West. Thoughts in Tehran are already turning to the future of a post-Khomeini nation. The geopolitical significance of the country cannot be ignored and Western governments would be failing in their duty if they did not assess their policies in that light. But if, however, the United States and Saudi Arabia (or for that matter anyone else) are handing over the reward without any guarantee of future conduct, then they are losing all sight of their proper priorities. It is for the Iranians to secure the release of all or most of the hostages in Lebanon, to offer guarantees of peaceful policies in the Gulf and to demonstrate more respect for human rights - and then to hope for the help they badly need in building the future of their country.

The arguments over supplying arms to Tehran are not only moral ones. There is an equally strong political case for not helping either side in the Gulf War. Iranian enthusiasm for its so-called "final offensive" has lately cooled -

to nobody's great surprise. There have been "final offensives" before which at best have fizzled out in no-man's land. Iran has plenty of fanatical manpower, (or rather boy-power), but has for some years lacked the arms and professional expertise to mount a sustained invasion of Iraq.

Might they break through the Iraqi lines for long enough to shatter Arab morale and even overthrow Saddam Hussein? That would achieve what is probably Khomeini's most important single objective and might just bring peace - of a kind. Saddam remains a strong man and there is no convincing evidence that he might fall. But the theory is there and one must question whether any power should risk tempting Khomeini to test it. An outcome with the Iranians in charge of Mesopotamia should not be lightly risked.

There are increasing signs that the Gulf War will end not with a bang but a whimper, both armies settling for a no-score draw. There might be no peace but equally there would be no war to speak of - just the sporadic cross-border skirmishing which might continue until some development off-stage, like the death of Khomeini, allowed peace negotiations to begin. That may be a slow unsatisfactory business, but it would be greatly preferable to the victory of one side over the other - particularly if the one side happened to be revolutionary Iran. To supply Tehran with arms while the situation remains in this uncertain light would seem, to use President Reagan's own word, to be "flaky."

## TAKING AIDS SERIOUSLY

Today sees the first meeting of Lord Whitelaw's Cabinet committee to consider the Government's response to the growing anxiety in this country about the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or AIDS. It will include the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Education, Defence, Social Services, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Mr John Biffen. If eminence alone were a guarantee of effective action, the committee could be safely left to get on with it.

There are, however, unsettling signs that the committee will fall victim to that familiar Whitehall paralysis which ensures that nothing controversial will be done until it is too late to be effective. One sign of that is the pronounced emphasis on the need to spend more money on public health education about AIDS. More money can certainly be used productively in informing people about the risks and dangers of AIDS. But health education cannot be made to bear the whole

burden of the Government's programme to combat AIDS. Newspapers and television, after all, carry a great deal of such information. And if the burden of the Government's message is to encourage "safe sex" (i.e. sex with condoms, which is safer rather than safe), then it may actually encourage the sexual promiscuity which is a major means of AIDS transmission and which the fear of AIDS has recently seemed to restrain.

Ministers have over-emphasised health education spending because they are nervous of proposals to halt the spread of AIDS directly - notably compulsory AIDS screening in Britain and compulsory tests for visitors from other countries. Some of their reasons for this nervousness are commonsensical enough. Compulsory screening would be both costly and impossible to enforce if significant sections of the populace were to evade it (as some high-risk groups such as militant gays, fearing a general social discrimination, would undoubtedly seek to do in present circumstances).

Other objections, such as the diplomatic trouble that would be caused by testing foreign visitors, are short-term and trivial in relation to the threat of a major AIDS epidemic. It can be confidently forecast that, if AIDS ever does reach epidemic proportions, public opinion will very quickly force Whitehall to abandon these reservations.

To ensure that matters never reach that disastrous stage, however, Lord Whitelaw's committee should launch a major programme of voluntary AIDS screening and consider ways in which participation in it can be encouraged.

From voluntary recruitment in the First World War to the mass screening for tuberculosis and other chest diseases since 1945, British governments have considerable experience of mobilising popular consent and participation. A campaign of voluntary screening may not be enough to tackle AIDS, but anything less will certainly be inadequate.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Financial damage to science

From Dr J.H. Mulvey and Dr N.A. Jelley

Sir, The Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) is £20million short because of the drop in sterling exchange rates and consequent increase in sterling value of the contributions which must - by treaty - be paid to international research organisations.

This unforeseeable loss to an already declining budget is having disastrous effects, with ever more grant applications for outstanding research in all fields of science being refused and scientists facing termination of their research in mid-flow. Understandably, the cry goes up once again, "withdraw from CERN", the international research centre for high-energy physics near Geneva, which is the recipient of the biggest of the international subscriptions.

But this would be a stupidity: CERN is outstandingly successful in its research; and to withdraw only for reasons of short-term financial difficulty would sabotage the desperate efforts the SERC is making to get Continental help in the financing of facilities like the Rutherford and Appleton Laboratory's spallation neutron source and destroy our credibility as reliable partners in future collaborative projects like the European synchrotron radiation facility.

The formula determining our contribution to CERN takes exchange-rate changes into account retrospectively and will in time bring an automatic reduction in our contribution. All the other member States have, long ago, taken steps to protect their domestic science from the effects of sharp swings in the exchange rates. They see us, not for the first time, suffering self-inflicted damage to our whole research programme and seeking to export the problem to the international organisations they strongly support.

Why must the Treasury be permitted to set conditions which make it impossible for the SERC to carry through its research plans without waste, confusion and the destruction of the hopes of scientists? If they fail to get a full correction for the immediate effects of exchange-rate changes, are the members of the SERC prepared to resign rather than com-

mit scientific mayhem?

Yours faithfully,  
J.H. MULVEY,  
N.A. JELLEY,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Nuclear Physics,  
Keble Road, Oxford.

From Professor Alan H. Cowley  
Sir, As a scientist who left Britain for an American university some twenty years ago, may I, through your columns, express my dismay at the inadequate level of support being given to basic research in chemistry at universities in the United Kingdom at the present time.

I have recently spent three weeks at the United Kingdom as a Royal Society of Chemistry Centenary Lecturer. I was thus able to visit several universities and it was abundantly evident that my British colleagues are having the greatest difficulty in working at the frontiers of the subject. This was true even for those chemistry departments rated highly in the recent University Grants Committee's grading exercise.

Moreover, I was amazed to find that one department "starred" for its excellence has one quarter of its faculty positions in inorganic chemistry vacant and unfilled for lack of funds, yet this is a sector of the subject in which the United Kingdom was once predominant. The Science and Engineering Research Council is unable to support a high proportion of alpha-quality research in chemistry, and "state-of-the-art" research equipment is lacking in departments until recently regarded as world leaders. To an expatriate it seems a recipe for economic disaster for such a small proportion (less than 5 per cent) of the SERC budget to be spent on grants for fundamental research in chemistry at the universities. These institutions train people who can sustain the success of the chemical industry and its massive contribution to the United Kingdom trade balance.

While one senses it would be a pleasure to welcome more British chemists to the United States, as a consequence of present science policy towards basic research, I cannot view this situation as being in the best interests of the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN H. COWLEY,  
The University of Texas at Austin,  
Austin, Texas 78712-1167, USA.

## Local blemishes

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, In her perceptive article (November 3), Anne Sofer asks, "Who will defend the town hall?" and comes to the conclusion, "hardly anyone". She finds a "creeping rottenness at the core of local government" but surely puts too much weight upon factors such as political patronage and intimidation, important as these are.

The trouble is that the British debate on local government has for too long been confined to wellworn questions of structure and function, so that the real issue - whether local authorities as at present constituted are equipped to be a focus for local participation and accountability - have been ignored.

It is time that questions such as

the method of election of local councillors, the role of direct participation at local level, and the internal organisation of local authorities were brought into the discussion. For, without consideration of these wider constitutional issues, it is doubtful whether we will be able to fashion a system of local government able to confront the complex social problems of the modern world.

The parlous state of local government in Britain today, and the understandable eagerness of ministers to by-pass local authorities in areas such as educational policy show just how much we have lost by our unwillingness, as a nation, to take constitutional issues seriously.

Yours faithfully,  
VERNON BOGDANOR,  
Branscote College, Oxford.

## SDP philosophy

From Dr Stephen Mennell

Sir, As one of the original 100 signatories of the Limehouse Declaration I agree substantially with Danny Finkelstein's account (feature, November 5) of how the "philosophy" of the SDP has evolved since then. But I would call the result an incoherent mish-mash: certainly to describe it as a move to the right is too simple, but also too dignified.

Since the term "social democratic" has (or had until 1981) an established meaning, linked historically in most of Europe to "democratic socialism", perhaps the SDP should now change its name, lest it be charged with sailing under false colours.

Or perhaps not. In terms of historic meaning we now have a Conservative Party which is not conservative, a Liberal Party which is not liberal, and an SDP which is not social democratic. Only the Labour Party remains true to its name, and that is one of its gravest weaknesses.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN MENNELL,  
7 Wheatsheaf Way,  
Aldington, Exeter, Devon.

## The right to buy

From Mr Albert T. Smith

Sir, Now that the House of Lords have voted twice to exempt council homes specially adapted for old (and disabled) people from the right-to-buy provisions enshrined in clauses of the appropriate housing Act, Mr John Patten, Minister of State for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, is reported (November 6) as assuring the House of Commons that the Government would nevertheless not stand by and watch elderly tenants cheated of their right to buy through the bureaucratic arrogance of uncooperative local councils.

As an afflicted tenant of such a local council, may I ask why were the discriminatory clauses in the right-to-buy legislation agreed to in the first place? Why, for all the reported talk of helping the disabled and elderly, were discriminatory measures invoked, leaving them with unequal rights from other tenants, yet paying the same amount of rent, deemed fair at the outset?

Trusting that the new and fair legislation, correcting this anom-

## Finding a road to recovery

From Mrs C. A. Atkinson

Sir, Now that the final section of the M25 has been opened we have an orbital motorway insufficient to cope with all the extra traffic it attracts - traffic which, in many cases, is coming from London to use the motorway for one junction and then turn towards again.

Starved of decent internal road links south London is an area of endless housing and little industry. That industry is being constantly drawn to new sites on the perimeter of the green belt with demands for attendant housing.

Thus the inner city is deprived of employment, which is, instead, offered to areas in the South-east which, with respect, have less need of new jobs. Demand for housing sites leaves landowners as the main beneficiaries.

Blethingly leeches on the edge of the green belt in beautiful countryside and the M25 has at least removed much heavy traffic from the village centre. However, we who use the motorway know there are few times in the day when the journey is not going to involve a traffic jam - either east or west.

In order to preserve our green belt and, at the same time, regenerate inner London surely there should be a further orbital road to encourage business back into the city. Even if a new road is impossible, improvements to existing roads to form a further inner orbital link could be made.

City of London finance might be more readily forthcoming, as sites for light industry in inner London became more attractive. I remain, yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE ALEXANDER ATKINSON,

Stables Cottage,  
Little Common Lane,  
Bletchingley, Surrey,  
November 8.

## Cutting response

From Mr Christopher Davie

Sir, British Rail's reason for felling a stand of beautiful mature trees, next to the Stoke d'Abernon recreation ground, as reported in *The Times* (November 6), is that leaves on the adjoining line cause wheel spin and overheating. BR say they need to cut back to within 30 to 40 feet of the line.

Some of the trees felled were at least 70 feet away. This was plainly and literally overkill by BR, when removal of a few trees close to the line and removal of selected branches of others would certainly have sufficed.

BR made no attempt to consult those who arguably are most affected - the Stoke d'Abernon Cricket Club, whose members have played on this ground, beautifully bordered by these trees, for more than 110 years.

Unless BR is to strike a much better balance between what it calls the interests of its customers and the interests of the environment than it has shown on this occasion, there is real cause for concern for all trees on BR property. This was a case of indiscriminate destruction, without any concern for those who enjoy the neighbouring land.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER DAVIE,  
21 Woodend Park,  
Stoke Road,  
Cobham, Surrey,  
November 7.

## Racing handicaps

From Mr J. L. Hislop

Sir, Among the many letters and articles on the defeat of Dancing Brave in the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita, one important and disturbing aspect has been overlooked almost completely.

This is that in the state of California certain medications, notably Lasix and Butazolidin, are permitted, though these substances are banned by all the chief racing authorities in Europe, where they are classed as dope.

This was condemned in a leading article in *The Blood Horse*, the most respected magazine on racing and breeding in the USA, on the grounds that Lasix is a stimulant as well as preventative for breaking blood vessels, while Butazolidin alleviates pain and disguises unsoundness.

Thus a false result can be obtained and such races are valueless as a true test, quite apart from the effects of travel, climate, the time of year and racing on courses which, by European standards, are glorified dog tracks.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HISLOP,  
Regal Lodge,  
Exning,  
nr Newmarket, Suffolk,  
November 6.

## Outlook uncertain

From Miss Susan J. N. Hill

Sir, Glancing through my two French phrasebooks recently, I noticed that neither has a section relating to "Weather". In fact, there seems to be a strange reluctance altogether to mention the phenomenon - one book contains a mere three references to the subject, the other cannot muster any.

Does this not seem odd, in publications aimed at the British public? Or is it a deliberate ploy to ensure that those of us who are less than linguistically expert are, when abroad, deprived of our favourite pastime?

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN HILL,  
18 Grendon Close,  
Tile Hill Village,  
Coventry, West Midlands,  
November 3.

## ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 11 1936

In this libel case the words complained of had been written by "Our Music Critic", a title which covered not only H.C. Colles, but also his assistant, Frank Howes, who wrote them.

## HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

KING'S BENCH DIVISION

LIBEL ACTION AGAINST

"THE TIMES"

JURY STOP THE CASE

REVELEY V. COLLES

AND ANOTHER

Before Mr. Justice Stephenson

The jury stopped this libel action which was brought by Captain Cathbert Reaveley, a professional vocalist and actor, of Bickenhall Mansions, W., against *The Times* Publishing Company Limited, in respect of words contained in an article in *The Times* of February 11, 1936. The action, it was stated, had also been brought against Mr. Henry Cope Colles, because the plaintiff had thought at first that Mr. Colles was the writer of the article.

The article was headed "Eljiah" as a "Pageant". The plaintiff complained of the following words:

For instance, the conflict between Eljiah and Ahab, which is felt as a clash between good and evil in the narrative of the oratorio, is sanctified by the physical appearance of a King who can only make gestures of important amonance... both Miss... and Mr. Cathbert Reaveley were unsteady in their declamation.

The plaintiff, who took the part of King Ahab, said that by those words the defendants meant that he was a man whose physical appearance rendered him wholly unsuitable to take the part, whose lack of ability as an actor was such that he could only make impotent gestures, whose declamation was unsteady, and who was wholly unfit to be engaged to take such or any other part.

The defence did not admit that the performance was produced as a pageant or spectacular performance, with scenery, costumes, and acting, and not as an oratorio.

Mr. F. H. Lawton appeared for the plaintiff: Sir William Jowitt, K.C., Mr. Valentine Holmes and Mr. John Senter for the defendants.

## ROLE OF KING AHAH

Mr. Lawton, in opening the case, said that in February last there had been produced at the Albert Hall Mendelssohn's oratorio *Eljiah*, in which Captain Reaveley had a small part - that of King Ahab. The plaintiff did not come before them as a man who would have done Caruso out of a job if he had been in that singer's time. The only line he had to sing was "Art thou Eljiah? Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" On February 11 *The Times* published the article in question, which began:

To butcher a masterpiece to make a spectacle is a proceeding that can be justified on no artistic principle...

Then followed the words of which the plaintiff complained... Captain Reaveley, giving evidence, said that from a spectacular point of view the part of Ahab was a large one, but from the singing point of view it was small. His clothes were so magnificent that anyone would look wonderful with them. He generally played parts of a virile and dramatic character...

## A CENTRAL FIGURE

In answer to further questions Captain Reaveley agreed that in a spectacular representation Ahab was bound to be a central figure. He was wearing a magnificent head-dress. He (the witness) knew the expression "All dressed up and nowhere to go." Ahab was all dressed up...

The plaintiff said that he was on the stage nearly an hour after singing the line, "Art thou Eljiah? Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" and he had to act during the whole of that time.

Sir William Jowitt - There was severe comment by Eljiah on Ahab, and all Ahab could do was to listen in silence to what Eljiah had to say? - All the more reason for dramatic art.

If he were going to be realistic it would be natural for Ahab to say something when Eljiah told him off? - I don't think I can agree with that, Eljiah was ejected, and this saved the King from lowering his royal dignity.

Captain Reaveley said that he was not aware of the distinction between "playacting" and "physical appearance". He agreed that Ahab could only make gestures of amonance, but he did not think that they were impotent. He could influence Queen Jezebel and the crowd by signs. Anyone reading the article in *The Times* would consider him wholly inadequate both physically and histrionically.

His Lordship - Do you happen to know whether any of the angels (referred to in the article) have brought a libel action? - Not so far as I know, my Lord. (Laughter.)

At the close of the case for the plaintiff Sir William Jowitt asked his Lordship to say that there was no case to go to the jury.

His Lordship - I confess I cannot see anything. (To the jury) - Can you?

The jury intimated that they did not want to hear say more, and they returned a verdict for the defendants.

Judgement was entered accordingly, with costs.

## Measure for measure

From Mr Leslie Millgate

Sir, In describing the slack way the British have adopted merrication I feel sure Mrs Eileen Cole (November 6) really meant to say O.S. hearted.

Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE MILLGATE,  
47 Cambridge Road,  
Great Shelford, Cambridge.







# PERSONAL COLUMNS

**LEGAL NOTICES**

## LEGAL NOTICES

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 581 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a meeting of the Company's AGM shall be held at the offices of LEONARD CRISTE & CO., 30, EASTCOURT, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA, on Thursday, the 26th day of October, 1984, at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon for the purposes of the following resolutions:

1. To elect the 30th day of October 1984 as the date of the AGM.

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**You may use your Access, Amex, Diners or Visa card.**



